

**Independence Squares Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 2, 2023**  
**Minutes**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Steve, Chris, Coco & John, Dave (joined at 7:17pm) Drew, Vinney. **Absent:** Ron. **Non-board Members in Attendance:** Mike, Tim, Linda, Peg

Meeting Started Approximately at 7:02PM

Secretary's Report – Vinney

**Motion (Steve/Coco seconded): Accept January 2023 Minutes?** *Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0*

President reminded members that the Nominating Committee needs to send the slate of Board nominees to Secretary 30 days before Annual Meeting. Club Secretary will then send the current slate of nominees to all IS Members. Any proposed by-law changes should be included in the correspondence.

**Motion: (Steve/ Dave seconded): IS Annual meeting to be held June 6, 2023 at 7:00pm Eastern:** *Yes: 6. No: 0. Abstain: 0*

**ACTION: Vinney to send note out in early May to the general membership a reminder about the Annual Meeting.**

Treasurer's Report – Chris

Members discussed the opening of our new 1 Year CD and Money Market account with Live Oaks Bank. Treasurer went on to highlight that we've lost about \$100 for each of our dances this year, but he expects we'll make up for these losses with the profits from the Fly-in. He also mentioned that our insurance and IAGSDC fees have been paid for the year.

**Motion (Steve/Dave seconded): Accept Treasurer Report** *Yes: 6. No: 0. Abstain: 0*

Board discussed keeping membership fees at \$45.

**ACTION: Chris and Steve to remind members that they may now pay for next year's membership dues.**

Fly-In Report – Vinney

Co-chair reminded members that the next Fly-in meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2023. At the time of the meeting, we have exchange certificates from 8 clubs (post-meeting, total is at 9). The Board agreed we can supplement our current Covid vaccination records with Times Squares for the 2023 Fly-in. Confirmed Theme for 2024: Moulin Rouge. Committee Chair is currently trying to confirm hotel rates for 2024.

Registration Logistics for 2023 Fly-in: Club president recommends that Registration checks for vaccination and health waiver attestations. If we have no record for an attendee, registration will send them to the Board table, who will take care of the necessary verifications. Once verified, attendee will go back to Registration to complete the check-in process. President reminded Board members that he can sit at the Board table for part of Friday, but that more volunteers will be needed. Unlike last year, where we required dancers to wear wristbands to designate that we

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checked their health attestations and vaccination records, we will not be implementing them this year. The mask mandate will be enforced while attendees are in the dance halls; attendees are free to remove their masks after they leave the dance halls.

**Action Item: President will craft an email to send to members and will announce during announcements on Tuesdays that we members help to enforce the safety protocols during the Fly-in.**

**Motion: (Steve/Chris seconded): We will drop the requirement for the 2023 Fly-in to wear wrist bands designating that vaccination status and health attestations were verified. Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 1**

**Motion (Steve/Vinney Seconded): If the Fly-in Committee and RTD Committee recommend supplementing our current vaccination records with Times Squares, then the board will accept that recommendation. Yes: 6. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

*Return to Dance Committee – Peg*

It was announced that Peg has stepped down as Committee Chair, with Linda assuming the role.

The Committee discussed 2 proposals, which were voted on:

**Motion (Steve/Coco seconded): Change name of the Return to Dance Committee to Health and Safety Protocols (HASP). Yes: 6. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

**Motion (Steve/Vinney seconded): Allow HASP to design a survey to all IS members and dancers as outlined in their proposal regarding the masking requirement. Yes: 6. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

Members agreed to keep the mask mandate for the remainder of the current class year. It was also recommended that summer outdoor dances should be maskless. HASP recommended that we check with the church about renting Merz Hall in place of the current Mainstream room, as it's bigger and better ventilated.

*Caller Liaison Report – Linda and Mike*

Chair expressed his appreciation for the caller of our February Fab Fest, which was well attended and enjoyed by the dancers, then announced that Kent Forrester will be calling at the church for our April 29, 2023 “International Day of Dance,” with Mainstream and Plus calls in the afternoon, followed by a break for dinner (not a sponsored dinner - dancers on their own), and Advanced and Challenge in the evening. Also discussed was the co-hosted dance with DC Lambda Squares (Mainstream through C1) on August 26, 2023 from 1:00 – 5:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek, Newark, DE. Dale Hodge will be calling. Lisa from DC Lambda inquired about divvying up the costs for a catered dinner (post-meeting, members agreed not to pay towards the meals). IS has declined to contribute/participate in the catered dinner.

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Glitter Ball 2023: Club President volunteered to be the point person for the Glitter Ball 2023 and will coordinate publicity, timing, and volunteers. Members then discussed the timing, which lead to the following motion:

**Motion (Steve/Coco seconded): Glitter Ball 2023 will be held from 3:00 – 7:00pm with 30 minutes for social time and no Potluck dinner: Yes: 6. No: 0. Abstain: 0.**

We are still open to co-hosting a dance with Times Squares, but we need to find a venue that is accessible to both clubs.

**Action Item: Caller Liaison Chair to reach out to Betsy to see if she's going on vacation August or September of 2023.**

Board recommends Mainstream, Plus and Advanced classes and a C1 Workshop for the 2023-2024 season.

Fly-in callers for 2024 and 2025 are now all confirmed, and contracts are ready (locations TBD).

Recruitment Committee Report – Steve

President mentioned that the next Recruitment meeting is March 22, 2023. Members discussed possibility of doing feature articles about IS in local publications. Club members are interested in doing a demo at a Contra dance. Committee recommends 3-4 Summer 2023 open houses spaced out in June, July, and August on a Tuesday night. This will allow recruits from Pride events to attend a dance without having to wait until September.

**Motion (Steve/Dave seconded): The Board gives the Recruitment Committee authority to spend \$1000 for various Pride and community events, with exception to Philly Pride. If the committee would like to revisit participating in Philly Pride, they will reach out to the Board for discussion. Yes: 6. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

Publicity Chair Report – Ron (absent)

Members discussed if we want to place an ad in the Federation newsletter and other venues.

**Motion (Steve/Dave seconded): The Board approves a \$500 through the 2023 Annual meeting for the Publicity Chair to place ads at his discretion in the Federation Newsletter, the Ottawa Convention, and other publications. Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 1**

Mainstream & Plus Report – Coco and John

NO UPDATES

Advanced & Challenge Report – Dave

NO UPDATES

Old/New Business

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The following note from Chris at LCHC was provided to Board members prior to meeting (Regarding the entrance left unlocked after a Tuesday night class. It's not clear if it was IS or the Gay Men's Choir who was responsible).

*Hi Stephen,*

*Thank you very much for taking this matter seriously. I am happy to hear that you discussed it with the board so that everyone is aware of the situation. I have every confidence that you will all make every effort to ensure that our building stays safe and secure. The lock on that door can be a bit confusing, so it can be easy to think that it is locked when it is not. It is always a good idea to double-check it when the group leaves, just to be sure! I am confident that as long as people are aware of the situation and know to double check the door that we won't have any more problems going forward.*

*Thanks again,  
Chris Walker  
Church Admin  
Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion*

Meeting adjourned approximately at 9:02pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Finlay  
Secretary, Independence Squares

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**Post-March Board Meeting motions:**

**Motion #1 (by Drew/Seconded by Steve) on March 10, 2023 (PASSED):**

*Independence Squares is excited for the joint dance on August 26th. As such we are committed to sharing the responsibility for and cost of the dance portion of the event including the \$650 for the venue and the caller. However, we believe that it is too late in the process to add something as elaborate as a catered dinner, so we will not commit to the extra costs or additional time and energy for said dinner. If you decide to proceed, we will obviously help publicity and encourage our members to attend.*

| Board Member        | Yea | Nay |
|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Chris Deephouse     | X   |     |
| Dave Tivani         | X   |     |
| Drew Allen          | X   |     |
| John & Coco Wiedmer | X   |     |
| Ron Rumble          | X   |     |
| Steve Demos         | X   |     |
| Vincent Finlay      | X   |     |

**Motion #2 (by Steve/Seconded by Chris) on March 17, 2023 (PASSED):**

*Independence Squares agrees to have our name on the publicity for the February 2025 cruise organized by Susan and Jeff Kaufman if the wording is "Participating Clubs: Tinseltown Squares, West Hollywood, CA and Independence Squares, Philadelphia, PA."*

| Board Member        | Yea | Nay | Abstain |
|---------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Chris Deephouse     | X   |     |         |
| Dave Tivani         | X   |     |         |
| Drew Allen          |     |     |         |
| John & Coco Wiedmer |     |     |         |
| Ron Rumble          |     |     | X       |
| Steve Demos         | X   |     |         |
| Vincent Finlay      | X   |     |         |

**Motion #3 (by Steve/Seconded by Ron) on April 17, 2023 (PASSED):** *The Board approves the following bullets as they pertain to the hotel contract for Independence Squares 2024 and 2025 Fly-ins:*

- Two-year contract, covering our 2024 and 2025 events*
- Ballroom space has been increased such that we will have full use of the large University Ballroom for the entire weekend, and full use of the Princeton Ballroom for Saturday daytime. That alleviates the overcrowding situation that we had this year on Friday night and, to some extent, on Sunday morning. We can actually create four separate*

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*ballrooms out of this space, thereby giving us the opportunity to have more Mainstream dancing and, possibly, more C3A tips, if we want to engage guest callers to do so. This is a matter for future discussion and is mentioned here only to point out a benefit that the increased dance space can give us.*

- *Our meeting room rate is \$6,000, inclusive of taxes and service charges, for 2024. That's the same rate that we had this year. For 2025, the rate increases 10% to \$6,600, again, inclusive of taxes and service charges.*
- *Sleeping room rates have increased from \$129.00 this year to \$135.00 in 2024, and to \$139.00 in 2025. The committee has repeatedly worked to bring these rates down but the hotel is unwilling to negotiate these rates.*
- *We do lose the use of the Lasalle and Lehigh rooms, both of which were used this year for storage, basket assembly, a game table, and for Casey's office. The committee has already discussed this and is confident that we can work around this. The most affected people would be Casey and Pattie, and they have both commented that we can figure out a plan that will work without these two extra rooms.*

| Board Member        | Yea | Nay | Abstain |
|---------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Chris Deephouse     | X   |     |         |
| Dave Tivani         | X   |     |         |
| Drew Allen          | X   |     |         |
| John & Coco Wiedmer | X   |     |         |
| Ron Rumble          | X   |     |         |
| Steve Demos         | X   |     |         |
| Vincent Finlay      | X   |     |         |

Agenda for the Independence Squares Board Meeting on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

Secretary's Report – Vinney

Planning for Annual Meeting in June

Have the meeting on June 6 via Zoom?

Keep dues the same?

Start encouraging people to pay their dues?

Treasurer's Report – Chris

Update on opening a CD.

Fly-In Report – Vinney

Committee next meets on March 10.

Return to Dance Committee – Peg

3 proposals

Ideas for dancing outside?

Implementing our Covid Protocols at the Fly-In – Steve

Last year the board took on the responsibility of checking vaccinations and obtaining waivers at a separate table from the sign in table. Will we follow the same procedure again?

Last year we provided wrist bands to everybody was checked for entry. Do we want to do that again?

Last year we asked our members to help us "police" the halls and make sure anyone who entered off the street was redirected to the appropriate location. (I don't think this situation ever arose last year but it could.) We also asked them to help us remind people to keep their masks on except when drinking water. (Again this didn't seem to be an issue last year.) Do we want to do that again?

I think we made signs to post outside our dance hall doors that mentioned this was a private event.

Do we just need the one Stop sign that registrants will see as they sign in when they first arrive?

People only need to wear their masks in the dance halls so people playing games in the lobby wouldn't technically have to wear masks, right?

Caller Liaison Report – Linda and Mike

Outreach from Norman Finnance at Chesapeake Squares

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

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

Volunteer for being in charge of Glitter Ball 2023?

Recruitment Committee Report – Steve

Discussion of open houses for the summer.

Update on participation in community events such as pride festivals.

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

Do we want an ad in the Federation newsletter for the April dance?

Mainstream & Plus Report – Coco and John

Advanced & Challenge Report – Dave

Old & New Business – Steve and all

Nominating Committee

Note from Chris at LCHC

Hi Stephen,

Thank you very much for taking this matter seriously. I am happy to hear that you discussed it with the board so that everyone is aware of the situation. I have every confidence that you will all make every effort to ensure that our building stays safe and secure. The lock on that door can be a bit confusing, so it can be

easy to think that it is locked when it is not. It is always a good idea to double-check it when the group leaves, just to be sure! I am confident that as long as people are aware of the situation and know to double check the door that we won't have any more problems going forward.

Thanks again,  
Chris Walker  
Church Admin  
Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion

Adjourn

# **Independence Squares Fly-In Committee Report March 2, 2023**

We have 153 registrations as of 2/27/23 and 155 room nights booked as of 2/20/23. We are responsible for 100 room nights with an attrition rate of 80%. Current income is as follows: Rollover dollars: \$2965.00, New dollars: \$8270.00

We have exchange certificates from 8 clubs, with one more on the way.

Casey has announced her retirement as lead chair of the Fly-In committee, commencing with the 2024 Fly-In. Mary Kay is taking over Casey's roll, with Ron and Vinney continuing as co-chairs and Ron continuing as registrar.

Dates have been set for the 2024 Fly-In as April 5-7, with callers Darren Galina, Betsy Gotta, and Bill Harrison. A flyer has been drafted and is attached for the board's information. Note: Not all information on the flyer has been approved by the committee yet and is subject to change. Negotiations are underway with the hotel for 2024. The committee agreed to hold off on entering into a contract until we see how things go this year. Consequently, the initial flyer print job will list "TBA" as the location.

The Fly-In program has been posted to the website and emailed to all attendees.

All attendees have been reminded of our COVID related protocols and will be reminded again in the last email update that will go out after the next committee meeting. Ron has cross referenced our attendee list to our various records of vaccination for club and non-club members in order to avoid having to ask for vaccination records for dancers who have already provided that information. Due to the likelihood of some records being missed during this review, all registrants have been asked to be prepared to provide their proof of vaccination once again if needed. They will be reminded to do so in the next email to the registrants.

A copy of the most recent email update has been included at the bottom of this report. Please refer to it for more updates.

Some committee members have expressed a concern about overcrowding on Friday nights due to the fact that the Princeton ballrooms, which are the only ballrooms that we have for that evening, are very small. A discussion will be held at the next committee meeting to consider alleviation plans which could include a game table setup outside the dance space and a pool event. Steve has offered to host a pool event and Linda has offered to host a game table.

The next Fly-In committee meeting will be held on Friday, March 10, commencing at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron R

Addendum:

Current email to new registrants:

Independence Squares hopes you and yours are safe and healthy. We are full speed ahead with our plans for the Philadelphia Freedom Fly-In.

We're looking forward to having you join us for a fun weekend of friendship and dancing, *March 24-26, 2023, with Sandie Bryant, Eric Henerlau, and Dayle Hodge for our Disco Fever Celebration!* **Thank you for registering for this event. If you can't attend, please notify the registrar as soon as possible.** All contact information is at the end of this email.

Below is information that might be helpful as you plan for the event.

### **Location & Rooms: Our beautiful new location!**

Sheraton Bucks County Hotel  
400 Oxford Valley Rd  
Langhorne, PA.

If you have not already made your hotel reservation, please do so here: [Sheraton Reservations](#)

**Note: Hotel rooms must be booked by February 23, 2023, to qualify for the discounted rate.**

The group rate is \$129 per night plus tax and applies 3 days before and 3 days after our event. If you have trouble with the link, contact the Fly-In registrar, not the hotel.

### **General Hotel Information**

- The hotel has a restaurant for breakfast and dinner. Lunch is not served. There is a breakfast buffet available on Saturday and Sunday at a cost of \$18.00 plus tax. Breakfast buffet hours are as follows:  
Monday - Friday 6 AM - 10 AM, Saturday - Sunday 7 AM - 11 AM
- There are a lot of eating establishments nearby and a list will be provided at the Fly-In.
- The indoor pool and hot tub are open from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. The fitness center is open 24 hours a day.
- Check-in time is 3:00 pm and check-out time is 12:00 pm. Late check-out requests should be made directly to the front desk and will be reviewed based on hotel demand. Note that check-out time is earlier than the end of the dancing on Sunday, so you should be prepared to vacate your room before heading to the dance hall unless you've made arrangements for a late check-out.
- The hotel bar is extending its hours for our event and will be open until midnight both Friday and Saturday.
- Parking at the hotel is free.
- Free WiFi.

## **Covid Protocols**

- Full vaccination (that includes the first two Moderna or Pfizer shots, or the first J&J shot) plus at least one booster are required of all attendees. All attendees will be required to show their vaccination status when they check in at the Fly-In. Please provide the original vaccination card or photo of same, even on your phone. A photo ID will be required to match to your vaccination record. If you've attended any of our events since the start of the pandemic, we likely have your information on file. But just in case, please be prepared to show us your vaccination record and photo ID again. We would hate to turn anyone away because of a lack of vaccination evidence. If you don't have your vaccination record on your cell phone, now might be a great time to put it there just in case it's needed. **If you wish to email a copy of your vaccination record to us ahead of time, you are welcome to do so by sending it to the Fly-In registrar.** We will update our records and will NOT keep a copy of your vaccination card or share it with anyone else.
- A properly worn mask, defined as covering both your nose and mouth, is required at all times while in the dance halls, raised or lowered if needed just long enough to consume beverages or snacks. Masks are not required, but are recommended, outside of the dance halls. The callers do meet our vaccination requirements but will not be required to be masked while calling.
- A completed, club-provided "Waiver & Release of Liability", signed in the presence of a Club officer or designee when checking in at the Fly-In, is required. Again, we might already have this on file for you, but you should be prepared to sign a new one just in case.
- If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within 10 days prior to our event, we ask that you not attend. We also ask that if you are not feeling well, you refrain from participating in our event. A full list of symptoms to watch for is included in the Health and Safety section of our website ([Health and Safety - Independence Squares](#)).
- We also ask that if you test positive for COVID-19 during the weekend or within 5 days of the conclusion of our event, you notify us so that we can alert all attendees. You will NOT be personally identified in that notification to the attendees.

**\*\*Check the club website for updates/changes to COVID protocols and for further explanations.**

## **Saturday Night Costume Ball**

The Saturday night "I Love the Nightlife" costume ball is our IAGSDC banner dance. Let your imagination start to work as you think about possible costumes. If you need help with some costume ideas, below are some helpful websites. Be sure to click on the links and type "Disco", "Disco clothing", or "Disco Accessories" to get a full listing of options. And remember that prizes for best costumes will be awarded!

- <https://www.lightinthebox.com/>
- <https://www.amazon.com>
- <https://www.miniinthebox.com/>
- <https://us.shein.com/>
- [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)
- <http://www.ebay.com>

## **Baskets, Baskets, Baskets**

Of course, we'll have our exceptional basket selection created by our ever-creative club members. Take a chance on one, or two, or a dozen baskets! Contact the registrar if you would like to donate a basket.

## **Dance Program**

Our tentative dance program is now available on our website here: <https://independencesquares.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-TENTATIVE-FLY-IN-SCHEDULE.pdf>. Please keep in mind that the program is subject to change.

## **Roommates Needed**

We have at least two dancers who are looking for roommates. If you are interested in sharing a room, or are also looking for a roommate, please let the registrar know and we will connect you with others who are interested.

## **Fojo Beans**

This is a NY company that has once again offered to bring your preordered coffee beans and tea to our Fly-In, thereby offering you free, personal delivery. They plan to announce their offer soon on our Facebook page, so keep an eye out for that. In the meantime, you can visit their website at [www.fojobeans.com](http://www.fojobeans.com)

## **Updates**

Be sure to check the club website ([www.independencesquares.org](http://www.independencesquares.org)) for updates regarding Covid protocols or other Fly-In details. Updates will be sent via email as needed. If you have questions, please contact the registrar.

Stay safe. Yellow Rocks,  
Independence Squares Fly-In Committee

## **Contact information:**

Registrar: [ronrumble@gmail.com](mailto:ronrumble@gmail.com)

Club website: [www.IndependenceSquares.org](http://www.IndependenceSquares.org)

Club Fly-In website: [Fly-In - Independence Squares](#)

Club email: [IndependenceSquares@hotmail.com](mailto:IndependenceSquares@hotmail.com)

# Independence Squares Invites You To **SPIN THE WINDMILL AT THE MOULIN ROUGE**



## Philadelphia Freedom Fly-In



**Darren Galina**




**Betsy Gotta**



**Bill Harrison**



 **April 5-7, 2024**

Mainstream thru C2  
*Dancing on carpet*

**Tentative Location:**

Sheraton Bucks County Hotel  
400 Oxford Valley Rd  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
888-236-2427

(Mention "Independence Squares"  
to get our rate)

[www.independencesquares.org/wp/fly-in/](http://www.independencesquares.org/wp/fly-in/)  
\$129 King or 2 Double/night (+tax)  
Double Occupancy  
Must reserve by xx/xx/xx

**Registration fees:**

**\$85** 1st Time Attendees

**\$85** Up to April 16, 2023

**\$110** April 17 - March 5, 2024

**\$120** After March 5, 2024

Please note: Registration fees are  
non-refundable but may be  
transferred to another 2024  
attendee or carried over,  
one-time only, to the 2025 Fly-In.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Club \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Highest program you enjoy dancing: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to call in a guest caller slot at the Fly-In at the following dance program(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [HTTPS://IAGSDC.ORG/EVENTS/EVENT-LIST](https://iagsdc.org/events/event-list) OR**  
**Mail above registration form with your check (payable to Independence Squares) to:**  
**Independence Squares, c/o Ron Rumble, 77 Teal Court, East Windsor, NJ 08520**  
**[www.independencesquares.org](http://www.independencesquares.org) • [independencesquares@hotmail.com](mailto:independencesquares@hotmail.com)**

Independence Squares welcomes all to our inclusive square dance community

## Caller Liaison Report

### Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – March 2023

The information below is accurate as of Tuesday, February 28, 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 2025

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place March 2023 April 2024.

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, August 26, 2023 – All-level dance Mainstream through C1 – Dayle Hodge 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek in Newark, Delaware – Joint Dance with DC Lambda Squares

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.)

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

Saturday, December 7, 2024 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Caller and Space TBD

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) 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.
- 3) Mark Franks will be away for the last session of the club's class year, Tuesday, May 23, 2023. His sessions of the Plus class and the Advanced workshop will be completed before then. Betsy Gotta will be the only caller on May 23 for the all-skate session and graduation.

# Independence Squares Publicity Chair Report March 2, 2023

A flyer for the April 29 dance was put together and has been printed and distributed on Tuesday nights. Ron will make sure that flyers are given to representatives who are at the Fly-In from Times Squares, DC Lambda Squares, and Chesapeake Squares. A Facebook event was posted and was shared with Times Squares, DC Lambda, and Chesapeake Squares. Do we want to consider an ad in the Federation newsletter?

The dance schedule on our website has been updated to include the following:

- April 29 dance
- Phillies Pride night outing
- August 26 joint dance with DCLS, with an indication that more info is coming
- 2023 Glitter ball, with an indication that more info is coming
- The Fly-In dance schedule

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Phillies Pride night has been set for June 23. A flyer and sign-up sheet have been printed and the event is being promoted weekly at our events. Ron is planning a Phillies theme night at class on March 28 (the last night to sign up for the baseball game), asking dancers to wear Phillies gear. He will bring Cracker Jacks as we did last year.

Ron was informed that the link on our website to Taminations was not working. That has been fixed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron R



## **Report from IS Recruitment Committee**

### **March 2, 2023**

**Our Committee members: Coco, Chris, George, John, Steve, Vinney, Will**

#### **Survey**

We will send a survey to the membership of Independence Squares asking them about how they first got involved in square dancing and what kept them coming back.

We will use the results of the survey to inform our recruitment efforts.

#### **Demos at Community Events**

We are working towards participation in community events and demonstrating a square dance tip at them.

John will look into block fairs and other options in Philadelphia.

Chris and Steve will set up a demo at a contra dance. It will most likely be at the Mount Airy Contra Dance. We will stress the importance of IS participants staying the whole evening.

#### **Participation in Pride Events**

We are moving ahead with participation in pride events this spring and summer.

We request a \$600 budget to be used for pride festival registrations and other community events.

#### **Open Houses**

We recommend hosting 3 or 4 open houses during the summer.

## RTD Committee Report for the March 2 Independence Squares Board Meeting

Proposals to the IS Board derived from Return to Dance Committee Meeting February 2, 2023

Proposal One: Return to Dance committee name: RTD proposes that we change the name of the committee to Health and Safety Protocols (HASP) to reflect the larger focus of the committee.

- ☐ The committee focus is no longer solely on the decision as to whether or not to return to dancing during the COVID epidemic.
- ☐ Committee will continue to monitor COVID statistics to identify trends that can be considered when deciding about dancing in person
- ☐ Committee will expand monitoring of other illness or health events that might affect our community
- ☐ Committee will expand education on safe dancing by reminding dancers to be careful of each other. Some areas that might be address:
  - ☐ Sanitize hands between tips and after blowing nose or coughing into hands
  - ☐ Be careful to not wrench shoulders or thumbs or other body parts during dancing
  - ☐ Check before hugging or kissing hello or goodbye
  - ☐ Be careful to not squeeze hands too hard during dancing

Proposal Two: Poll: Committee proposes that we craft and send a poll to all Independence Squares members and dancers who might be members but do (or have) attended our classes or dances about the mask requirement.

·Poll will be two-pronged:

·to those who are attending regularly

·to those who have stopped coming to weekly classes and dances

·The questions will be on the topic of whether we stop the masking requirement or continue masking, will you be more likely to continue (or return) to weekly classes or to stop coming (or return) to weekly classes.

·Committee proposes that we send the poll either at the graduation dance or just prior to graduation dance.

·Committee will draft a design of a poll to be used, if board members approve the proposal.

Proposal Three: Fly-In Health Protocols for Guests: Committee proposes that we affirm that dancers and callers at our Fly-Ins are welcome to bring guests and that we will ask they also meet the vaccination and mask protocols that the dancers and callers are asked to adhere to.