

Independence Squares Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2023
Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Vinney, Ron, Steve, Chris, Drew, John & Coco, Dave. T.

Meeting started approximately at 7:00 PM EDT

After some initial socializing among the members, the club president welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the call and provided an overview of the night's meeting including the process for voting for the slate of board members.

Opening Thoughts:

The president began the meeting with comments about the state of Independence Squares. He detailed that the strong position of the club was the result of multiple factors: strong finances; strong board & committee members; strong sponsored events; strong dancers, and strong callers. He moved on to thank all the outgoing board and committee members and all volunteers for their service and dedication throughout the year.

Acceptance of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes:

Prior to the annual meeting, the club secretary emailed all club members a copy of the June 7, 2022 Annual Meeting minutes to review. Secretary opened the floor by asking if anyone had any questions about the report. Seeing there were none, a motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. All members on the call voted "Yes" (there were zero "No" or "Abstain" votes) and the minutes were approved.

General Announcements and Comments:

The club president instructed the members to check their email for the link to vote, requesting that they reach out to Chris Deephouse if they have any issues voting or if they haven't received the email. He moved on to announce the HASP committee's recommendation to no longer require vaccinations and boosters have been approved and passed by the board, effective immediately. The mask mandate had also been dropped, though masks were still encouraged. Next, he pointed out to attendees that the IAGSDC has no host for the 2025 convention and instructed anyone with questions to reach out to Tim Harper.

Voting Began:

After some general announcements, the president turned the floor over to Chris Deephouse to instruct members on how to vote. Chris provided an update on votes received and was troubleshooting for those who had issues with their email. The slate of members for 2023/2024 included:

President-elect: Scot Rodgers (will assume responsibility of presidency in June 2024)

Advanced/Challenge Program Rep: Dave Tavani

Mainstream/Plus Program Rep: Vinney Finlay

Publicity Chair: David Blatt

Secretary: Stephen Demos

Treasurer: Ron Rumble

**Drew Allen to assume the presidency at the end of the annual meeting on June 6, 2023*

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More General Announcements and Comments:

President reminded attendees to complete the “Origins Survey” and sent out a link to folks who may not have completed it. He expressed the importance of the survey to guide us in our future efforts at recruitment. He summarized this year’s Pride events – past and upcoming – and urged more members to volunteer and bring friends. He then posted the dates for upcoming open houses and encouraged members to mark their calendars and attend the dances, bringing friends and family. He turned the call over to Moss, who presented an open invitation to a painting unveiling for a member who won a painting at the Disco Fly-in. Ron followed with a reminder of the upcoming Pride night Philly’s game.

Treasurer’s Report (Report submitted):

The outgoing treasurer shared the annual financial reports on screen with attendees. He shared highlights, including revenue from the fly-in as well as discussed some losses from classes. He opened the floor to questions from the members. As this was the annual meeting, the data was only presented and did not need to be voted on.

Volunteer of the Year:

The club president continued with the announcement of the volunteer of the year: Lou Partridge. Although Lou could not make the call, the president congratulated Lou and spoke of all his contributions to the club, not only for the current year, but the entire time Lou has been a member.

Old Business/New Business:

Earlier in the call, a member expressed that she wanted to discuss some areas for improvement on the club’s website to make it more user friendly. The president tabled the discussion, but another member thought talking about it during “Old/New Business” might be appropriate. However, the member had already left at that point. Ron and Dave B. stated they would follow up with the member to hear their thoughts about making the site more user friendly.

Mike R. asked members to let him and Linda know if they have any ideas for new callers for next year who can sub on Tuesday nights or special dances.

Bob R. suggested that we thank the church for allowing us to use their premises and for all the support throughout the year.

Final Vote:

At this point, Chris C. announced that the final count was available and confirmed that all nominees listed above were the winners for their respective positions: **Advanced/Challenge Program Rep:** Dave Tavani; **Mainstream/Plus Program Rep:** Vinney Finlay; **Publicity Chair:** David Blatt; **Secretary:** Stephen Demos, and; **Treasurer:** Ron Rumble. Drew Allen, former President-Elect, is now club President.

Introduction to New Club President:

Steve Demos, our outgoing president and new club secretary, introduced and opened the floor to our new club president, Drew Allen. Drew thanked all who were on the call, and expressed

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gratitude to the new board, as well as the outgoing board members who will not serve in 2023/2024. He invited people to reach out to him with any questions. With no more business to discuss, a motion was made to conclude the meeting.

Meeting adjourned approximately at 8:04pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Finlay
Secretary, Independence Squares

Independence Squares June 6, 2023 Annual Meeting Agenda and 2022 Minutes Inbox

Sun, Jun 4, 2023 at 10:40 AM

Dancers and Friends,

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Independence Squares Annual Meeting of Members at 7:00 pm Eastern on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Everyone is warmly invited to attend the meeting by using the link below. ***Please do not post the link on social media.*** Only those of you who have paid their membership dues for 2023-2024 are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. (You can still vote if you renew on the website by noon on Monday, June 5, 2023.)

If you have paid your membership dues then you should have recently received an email from stephendemos@verizon.net verifying our receipt of your dues. If you did not receive the email, then either you didn't pay your dues, you need to look in your spam mailbox, you need to look at an email account with a different address than this one, or we made a mistake and do not have a record that you paid your dues.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting will include:

- 1) Steve's President's report and announcements and approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes (attached)
- 2) The election of the Independence Squares Board of Directors:
 - President-elect:** *Scot Rodgers (will assume responsibility of presidency in June 2024)*
 - Advanced/Challenge Program Rep:** *Dave Tavani*
 - Mainstream/Plus Program Rep:** *Vinney Finlay*
 - Publicity Chair:** *David Blatt*
 - Secretary:** *Stephen Demos*
 - Treasurer:** *Ron Rumble*
 - *Drew Allen will assume the presidency at the end of our annual meeting on June 6*
- 3) Chris's financial report
- 4) The Volunteer of the Year award
- 5) Old & New Business

See you all on Tuesday night!

Kind regards,

Vinney Finlay
Secretary, Independence Squares