

**Independence Squares Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 3, 2023**  
**Minutes**

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

**Non-board Members in Attendance:** Marika, Will, Dave B, Linda & Peg, and Mike & Tim

Meeting started approximately at 7:00 PM EDT

Secretary's Report – Vinney

**Motion (by Steve/Seconded Ron) (PASSED):** *Accept March 2023 Minutes as amended and uploaded?*

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	

Also discussed during the secretary's report:

- IS will not co-sponsor the Kaufman cruise, but will promote it during class and online.
- President will ask Norma to be judge of elections. Chris D. will serve as back-up.
- Election Buddy will be the platform for the Annual Meeting.
- Vinney will send annual meeting reminder out on 5/3/23.

Treasurer's Report – Chris

Members reviewed and discussed the Treasurer report.

**Motion #1 (by Steve/Seconded Drew) (PASSED):** *Accept Treasurer's May 2023 minutes?.*

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	

Ron and Chris will investigate the necessary paperwork/procedures to apply for tax-exempt status.

**Independence Squares Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 3, 2023**  
**Minutes**

**Motion #2 (by Steve/Seconded Drew) (PASSED):** *Form short-term committee (non-standing) to look into being tax-exempt and appoint Chris/Ron as co-chairs?*

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	

Also discussed during the Treasurer's Report:

- Consider amending our policy to extend our pre-pay option to non-members, while creating new incentives for club members. A straw poll took place.
- We now have a contract with the church.

**Motion #3 (by Coco/Seconded Chris) (PASSED):** *We will renew our Meet-Up membership for this year and will re-evaluate renewal in subsequent years.*

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	

Fly-In Report – Ron and Vinney

Co-chair presented a summary of where we are in terms of registrations for the 2024 Fly-in.

Health and Safety Protocols (HASP) Committee Report – Linda

Members agreed that most IS meetings should be open to all members, but in rare instances (such as when confidential information is being discussed), we should consider only inviting the Board and relevant committee members.

**Motion #1 (by Dave T./Seconded Drew) (PASSED):** *Accept HASP Proposal 1 to keep mask mandate until graduation, after which masks will be recommended, but optional.*

Board Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Chris Deephouse	X		

**Independence Squares Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 3, 2023**  
**Minutes**

Dave Tivani	X		
Drew Allen	X		
John & Coco Wiedmer	X		
Ron Rumble	X		
Steve Demos	X		
Vincent Finlay			X

**Motion #2 (by Steve/Seconded Vinney) (PASSED):** *Accept HASP Proposal 2 to stop weekly announcements for COVID awareness.*

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 #3 (by Steve/Seconded Drew) (PASSED):** *Accept HASP Proposal 3 to stop the bi-weekly email reporting COVID statistics.*

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 #4 (by Steve, Seconded Coco) (PASSED):** *We should remove current snack restrictions and encourage individually wrapped items, but not mandate it.*

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	

**Independence Squares Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 3, 2023**  
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Callers agreed that dancers should inform their squares if there are moves they can't do or if they have any other limitations before the start of a tip.

Caller Liaison Report – Linda and Mike

Some topics discussed:

- Cementing our relationship with Chesapeake Squares.
- Pursuing potential venues to cohost a dance with Times Squares.
- Finding a volunteer to take charge of the August dance.
- Providing Dayle with a WIFI code for August dance.
- Consider adding another dance to our current lineup: February, April, August, October, December and our Fly-In.

Recruitment Committee Report – Steve

Highlights included:

- We are currently registered for 4 PRIDE events, and we are planning on doing demos in all except for New Hope Pride.
- We will subsidize entrance fee for our members who attend the June 27 Swarthmore contra dance, with the expectation that they will stay the entire night.
- Open houses are scheduled for July 18, August 22, and September 12, with classes starting September 19.

Publicity Chair Report – Ron

Members discussed how we should deal with requests to publicize other groups' events through our Google Groups mailing list.

Mainstream & Plus Report – Coco and John

Who are our graduates? Only Elissa for Mainstream, Sarah and Vinney for Plus.  
Will we grant Elissa a free 2023/2024 membership and a free name tag.

Advanced & Challenge Report – Dave

Who are our graduates? Melissa, Scot, John and Cindy?

Old & New Business – Steve and all

Club Directory is currently being updated.

Volunteer of the Year Discussion (Non-board members dropped off at this point)

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM EDT.

## Caller Liaison Report

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

The information below is accurate as of Monday, May 1, 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 May 2023 April 2025.

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

Open House Tuesday, July 18, 2023 – Open House - Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Location TBD

Open House Tuesday, August 15, 2023 – Open House - Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Location TBD

Recommending that the first Tuesday class in September 2023 be an Open House. This would be on September 12.

#### 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) 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 Fly-In Committee Report May 3, 2023**

Our 2023 Fly-In was a huge success. A full financial report will be provided by the Treasurer. Here are some figures from the event:

- Total number of dancers in attendance: 149
- Number of room nights booked 145 (We were required to book 80)
- We had 32 different clubs represented.
- We had dancers from 18 different states, plus Canada.
- Preferred program breakdown was as follows (note, many dancers didn't list a preferred program):
  - Mainstream: 5
  - Plus: 37
  - Advanced: 14
  - A2: 28
  - Challenge: 1
  - C1: 37
  - C2: 23
  - C3: 4
  - C3A: 8
  - C4: 1

The 2023 Fly-In survey results were extremely positive, with many dancers expressing their approval of our host hotel. The negative comments included many complaints about the overly warm and crowded ballrooms on Friday night. There were also some comments about not having enough Mainstream dancing, the cost of the hotel breakfast, complaints about dancing on carpet, and a feeling that there wasn't enough information about the Fly-In on our website.

We have contracted with the Langhorne Sheraton for our 2024 and 2025 Fly-Ins. The terms are as follows:

- Meeting room space rental for 2024 is \$6,000. The fee is \$6,600 for 2025. These figures include taxes and service charges.
- The University Ballroom has been procured for the entire weekend for both years, thereby giving us significantly more dance space which will alleviate the overcrowding situation that we had in 2023 on Friday night, and, to some extent, on Sunday morning. We will continue to have the Princeton Ballrooms on Saturday daytime and can split that hall into two if we decide to do so. That will allow us to have four dance halls during the day on Saturday.
- Sleeping room rates are \$135.00 for 2024 and \$137.00 for 2025.

- We are contracted for 100 sleeping rooms, with an attrition rate of 80%. We will receive one free room night for every 20 booked, and our discounted room rate extends to three days prior to our event and three days after our event. These are the same terms that we had in 2023.
- We will receive triple Marriott Bonvoy points for both 2024 and 2025.

We are obligated to the following payment schedule with the hotel:

- Upfront deposits of \$1,200.00 for each year (total \$2,400.00)
- \$2,400.00 due on 10/6/23 (for 2024)
- \$2,400.00 due on 3/22/24 (for 2024)
- \$2,700.00 due on 10/6/24 (for 2025)
- \$2,700.00 due on 3/21/25 (for 2025)

Our 2024 flyer has been revised to include the venue information and will be reprinted. It has also been sent to the IAGSDC for inclusion in their Ottawa convention book. The venue information has been updated on our website and on the IAGSDC website.

We have extended our discounted early registration fee of \$90.00 to May 14, 2023, to accommodate dancers who might have held off on registering because of our delay in procuring a venue.

Notice of our venue update and the extension of our discounted early registration fee have been sent to our membership and to our 2023 Fly-In attendees. We have also posted notice on our Facebook page and on the Facebook pages of DC Lambda Squares, Times Squares, and Chesapeake Squares. Personal outreach has been made to these three clubs with a request to help inform their members through their newsletters and/or their email list.

A new Q&A section is under construction for our Fly-In page. The plan is to address many questions that dancers might have regarding the Fly-In itself, the hotel, the theme, and many other topics. Our members have been encouraged to submit information that they might consider to be helpful for inclusion in this section. It is recommended that once the club's publicity chairmanship changes in June, Ron be given continued access to this portion of the website so that updates can be made quickly.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron R

## **IS Recruitment Committee Report**

### **May 2023**

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

We registered Independence Squares to participate with a table at New Hope Pride on May 20, 2023. Vinney and Ron will take the lead staffing that event.

We registered for the Delaware County Pride Festival on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Steve will take the lead staffing that event. We are scheduled to give a square dancing demo during the opening ceremonies at 1:15. They want us to be ready at 1 pm.

We registered for Bucks-Mont pride on Sunday, June 23. Steve will take the lead staffing that event.

We continue to attempt to register for a table at Cherry Hill Pride on September 10, 2023. Vinney will take the lead on staffing that event.

Philadelphia Pride Collective still has not posted anything about a pride festival in Philadelphia in 2023.

We hope to put on demonstrations at Delco Pride, Bucks-Mont Pride and Cherry Hill Pride. Vinney will make a sign up sheet for club members to help out at those events.

#### **Demos at Contra Dances**

Independence Squares is cleared to give a demo at the Swarthmore Park Avenue Center on June 27 during their regularly scheduled contra dance. The committee plans to subsidize the entrance fee for all Independence Squares dancers who stay for the entire contra dance. Chris will reach out to Mount Airy Contra Dance about a demo at one of their dances.

#### **Survey**

Chris is ready to send out 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.



# **Independence Squares Publicity Chair Report May 3, 2023**

A flyer was designed and printed for our 2024 Fly-In. It is in the process of being revised now that we have a venue for the event. See the Fly-In report for more information regarding publicity efforts for this event.

Our Summer Splash flyer is in the process of being reprinted since our initial supply is nearly exhausted. A push will be made to get these distributed over the summer.

Packages of flyers for our upcoming events are being put together for distribution at our remaining Tuesday night dances for club members to take with them to dances that they plan to attend over the summer. An announcement will be made to encourage dancers to take packages with them.

An ad was placed in the recent Federation newsletter for our August Summer Splash.

Packages of flyers were given at our 2023 Fly-In to representatives from Times Squares, DC Lambda Squares, and Cheasapeake Squares for distribution to their clubs. These packages included flyers for our April 29 dance, our Summer Splash, and our 2024 Fly-In.

Our June 23 Philles Pride Night baseball game has 34 people who have signed up, with space for up to 6 more. This will give us the perk of having our club's name included on the stadium's big screen before the game and on the side scoreboards during the game.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron R