

**Minutes from the Independence Squares Board Meeting  
Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 7:00 PM**

**Board Members in Attendance:** David B., Peg, Ron, Sarah, Steve, Vinney

**Board Members Absent:** Scot

**Non-Board Members in Attendance:** Gabriel, George R., Tim

Secretary's Report – Sarah

**Steve made a motion that the minutes from the June Board meeting be accepted. Vinney seconded. Passed unanimously.**

Steve reported that he has now posted all of the minutes from the previous term on the website and the club Google Drive. He asked for people to look over the minutes from the Annual Meeting, which he shared over email, and said he would wait about a week and solicit opinions before posting on the web. There was a discussion about whether Board Meetings should continue to be on the third Wednesday of the month, with Board members agreeing to continue on Wednesdays for the time being. The next meeting will be August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Treasurer's Report – Ron

Ron's written report is attached to these minutes. He briefly discussed recent expenses, including the expenses from the Anniversary Dance in June and a deposit paid to the Langhorne Sheraton for the 2026 Fly-In. He also asked for volunteers to handle finances at the Summer Splash.

Four members were selected for the Finance Committee. The previous members of the Finance Committee were Steve, Ron, Drew, and Scot. Drew has asked to be removed. Ron and Steve agreed to continue as members of the Finance Committee, and it was assumed that Scot was likely to agree to serve as well. Peg volunteered to join. David B. volunteered to serve if Scot did not agree.

**Ron made a motion that we accept as members of the Finance Committee and as signers on our financial accounts him, Steve, Peg, Scot if he agreed, and David B. if Scot declined. Vinney seconded. Motion passed with six Board members voting in favor.**

Update: In an email discussion on July 26, **Ron made a motion that we install Ron, Steve, Peg, and David B. as members of the Finance Committee and as signers on our financial accounts. Steve seconded. Motion passed with six Board members voting in favor.**

Steve asked if the Board wanted to renew the policy for those with a financial hardship. Last year, the policy was for those who state that they have a financial hardship to pay \$5 instead of \$10 for dances and classes. Steve stated that only the four members of the Finance Committee

knew their names. It was agreed that the policy should be renewed. There was a discussion about whether those requesting reduced admission should make a request in writing and whether they should be asked to volunteer. Peg spoke in favor of asking those people to do volunteer work for the club, although no one suggested that it should be required. Ron said he would make a proposal at a later date that the Finance Committee should ask annually if the recipients wish to renew and said that the Finance Committee would discuss details further.

#### *Fly-In Report – Ron*

The written report is attached to these minutes. Agreement has been reached for the 2025 Fly-In, and Ron stated that since writing the report, he got an updated contract back from the hotel, which he will review. He is also waiting on an updated contract for 2026. For 2025, 97 dancers have registered so far. IAGSDC has made plans to hold their mid-year meeting at the Fly-In. There have been problems with both the link and the phone number provided by the hotel for making registration. Ron has been communicating the new phone number to registrants as they sign up, and he will provide information for David B. to post on the club website. Steve asked if IAGSDC would be able to get the special rate for rooms on Thursday night, and Ron said yes. Board members thanked Ron for his tireless work in negotiating with the hotel.

#### *Caller Liaison Report – none*

Peg related the response from Betsy to the Board's question about how late someone could join the Mainstream class. If someone wanted to start on the third week of classes and they had attended an Open House, Betsy would consider that okay, but not if they didn't attend an Open House. This means that any prospective dancer who was recruited at Our Fest in October would not be able to join that year's Mainstream class. The Recruitment Committee will consider this during their discussion later in July about attending Our Fest.

There was a discussion of dances that the Board would like to ask the Caller Liaison Committee to find callers for in 2025, continuing from the last Board meeting. People were enthusiastic about the idea of a Pride Month dance, separate from an Open House. Peg emphasized that Advanced/Challenge dancers might want practice before the Fly-In. David B. spoke in favor of combo dances with dinners. Tim commented that it's more cost-effective for callers, and Ron agreed that it's more cost-effective for the club.

**At this point, Ron and Vinney had to leave.**

Steve sent the finalized list of proposed dances to Peg to send to the Caller Liaison Committee.

The list was as follows:

- August 24, 2024: Mainstream to Challenge
- October 19, 2024: Mainstream & Plus
- December 7, 2024: Mainstream to Challenge

- January 4, 2025: Advanced & Challenge
- Valentine's Day Dance, possibly February 15, 2025: Mainstream & Plus
- March 8 or 15, 2025: Advanced & Challenge
- Fly-In April 4-6, 2025
- Dance after the Fly-In April 19 or 26, 2025: Advanced & Challenge or combo dance with Mainstream & Plus
- May 31, 2025: Mainstream & Plus with an Advanced tip
- Pride Month Dance: Mainstream & Plus
- August 2025 Summer Splash: Mainstream to Challenge
- Possible October 11 or 18, 2025: Advanced & Challenge
- December 6, 2025: Mainstream to Challenge

*Communications Coordinator Report – David B.*

David B. updated the website to add the class start date and link to class page to our Open House post, removed the Meetup info, and provided pictures from Durham to our Instagram team from Durham. He met with Scot and Sarah to overview how to use the club email, Zoom, and Google drive. He sent emails to the club regarding the Convention.

*Advanced/Challenge Report – Peg*

Peg reiterated the importance of more Advanced/Challenges dances and spoke about the need to support Advanced/Challenge callers.

*Report from the IAGSDC delegates meeting – Tim*

Tim emailed the Board highlights from the IAGSDC delegate meeting. Independence Squares was singled out as one of only two clubs to have banner dances. At the meeting, there was a proposal to eliminate three entry-level programs and combine them into one. If approved, this would take effect in 2026. The Convention committee received thanks from Discover Durham for choosing Durham.

*Health and Safety Protocols Report – none*

There was no HASP committee report. Steve said he hoped HASP would take into consideration the number of people who caught COVID at the Convention. Tim stated that the percentage of people who tested positive COVID was in line with current CDC reports. The HASP committee will submit a report to the Board in August.

*Recruitment Committee Report – none*

There was no Recruitment Committee Report.

### Old Business and New Business

Discussion about the proposed Facilities Committee was tabled because Linda was not present. Peg said there was a lot of interest in response to her email soliciting new T-shirt designs. She will set a deadline of August 15<sup>th</sup> for people to send in designs. There was a discussion about the club uniform and whether it should be offered to new members, potentially subsidized by the club. Tim said he would ask Mike if the company that used to manufacture the club shirts is still in existence. This will be added to the agenda for the August Board meeting. Steve gave an update on Wheel Around NJ 2025. He had a meeting about it with Jim B. Steve asked for the Board to commit to participating in the dance and asking Mike and Linda to find a caller, though he did not make a motion, and there was agreement. There was an update on Summer Splash 2025, which is in the planning stages. Steve will meet with Mark H. soon and look at an alternate location closer to DC. They are also discussing who to hire as a caller. There was a discussion about classes in 2025, with Peg and Tim stating that now would be a good time to let Betsy and Mark know that we wish to hire them for 2025.

**Steve made a motion to hire Betsy and Mark to teach classes in 2025. Peg seconded. Motion passed with David B., Peg, Sarah, and Steve voting yes.**

Dave said he would email Peg some thoughts about T-shirts. Steve commented on how the Anniversary Dance was valuable for recruiting. Peg suggested sending a thank-you note from the club to Ron S. for his work on the diplomas. Steve and David B. will post reminders online and send an email to the club about the upcoming Open House.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Paulos  
Secretary, Independence Squares



# Independence Squares Treasurer's Report

## July 17, 2024

June's month-end accounting reports were sent to the board of directors on July 2, 2024. Copies of the balance sheet and profit-and-loss spreadsheet are included with this report.

Along with the link to the above referenced reports, the following two notes were provided to the board on July 2:

- Misc Expenses of \$434.21 consist of the Anniversary Dance expenses (\$405.21) plus the cost of Election Buddy (\$29.00) which we used to run our election at the annual meeting.
- Our Anniversary Dance had a net loss of \$225.21.

Since the July 2 report, a deposit of \$1600.00 was paid to the Langhorne Sheraton to secure the ballrooms for our 2026 Fly-In. This will be reflected in the July month-end accounting.

At today's board meeting, we need to appoint 4 board members (one of whom is required to be the Treasurer) as signers of our financial accounts, and to become members of the Finance Committee. Ron will subsequently work with these individuals to get our accounts updated and will update the Finance Committee Google Group accordingly.

Please note that Ron and Vinney will be away at the time of the Summer Splash on August 24, 2024. A volunteer or two are needed to handle the finances of that event, which include the collection of door receipts and 50/50 sales and the deposit of those funds.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron R, Independence Squares' Treasurer

# Independence Squares Fly-In Committee Report

## July 17, 2024

Ron continues to negotiate with the Langhorne Sheraton regarding the revisions to our 2025 contracts. Agreement has been reached on all terms and we are in various stages regarding the signing of those revised contracts.

The hotel never sent fully executed contracts to us for our 2026 event and Ron is working to get those sent to us. We have also asked that some minor revisions get made that were agreed to but were never updated within those contracts.

Our 2025 Fly-In has 97 registered dancers, with \$8895.00 paid in registration fees. We have not had a new registration since 5/25/24 but this isn't unusual, with dancers being more focused on their summer plans right now and with the IAGSDC Convention.

The IAGSDC has made plans to hold their mid-year meeting at our 2025 Fly-In. Here is part of the communication that we received from them:

This is Ed Zeigler, the Chair of the IAGSDC. Between the conventions we have a mid-year meeting somewhere. We have been to Atlanta several times as well as other cities during their fly-in. We are considering your 2025 fly-in for our meeting. What that involves is: We (5 people) arrive on Thursday night We meet during the day on Friday before the fly-in starts Those that want and have the time to will commonly attend the fly-in for the weekend It doesn't require anything from your fly-in but anything you can do to help that wouldn't cost you anything, even just provide a hotel contact would be great. Hopefully we can get your flyin room rate a day before your flyin starts on Thursday night is a big help. We will be needing a small meeting room during the day Friday to hold our meeting

Ron assisted Ed with this, and it was agreed that they would indeed hold their meeting at our event. This has resulted in one new registration to our Fly-In (Ed Zeigler) and we are hopeful that more of the IAGSDC board members will sign up as well.

We continue to have issues with the hotel registration process for our 2025 event. Dancers who have tried to make hotel reservations using the link and/or the phone number that we provided to them are sometimes unable to make their reservations. The hotel has assured us that the link will work once we are 6 months away from the start of our event. They have also provided us with a different phone number for dancers who are having trouble making reservations by phone. Ron, as the Fly-In Registrar, is communicating this information to all registrants as they sign up for the Fly-In.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron R, for the Fly-In Committee Co-Chairs

## Major Highlights of 2024 IAGSDC Delegates' Meeting in Durham, NC

For 2024, we are on track for an anticipated loss of \$2610, as expected.

Projected 2025 Income:	\$5700	
Projected 2025 Expenses:	\$7220	
Projected 2025 Loss:	\$1520	
Net Assets (as of 31 Dec, 2023)		\$56,016

Four new clubs were approved for membership:

- Emerald Waves of Pensacola, FL (full member)
- Alien Eights of Las Vegas, NV (Advanced club – full member)
- Ettseteras of Washington/Baltimore area (C1 club - associate member)
- Offsets of Washington/Baltimore area (C2 club - associate member)

Ottawa reported a final attendance figure of 695 attendees.

Durham reported a preliminary attendance figure of 560 registrants.

Harlan Kerr reported that a new proposal (presented at a separate discussion by Ted Lizotte) will be considered at the next CALLERLAB convention. The proposal would consolidate all 3 current entry-level programs (Basic, SSD, Mainstream) into a single program consisting of no more than 50 calls. The remaining calls currently included in the Mainstream and Plus programs would be consolidated into the next level program. If approved, implementation would likely occur in the fall of 2026.

GCA membership currently stands at 144 members.

James Ozanich will be adding a sixth panel to the memorial panels in San Francisco.

The delegates approved a proposal to change the IAGSDC slogan/tag line from “An LGBTQ\* Organization” to “An LGBTQ+ Organization.”

Convention bids were presented and accepted for 2027 and 2028. Future conventions will be:

- 2025 – San Francisco, CA (bid accepted at Ottawa convention) July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend
- 2026 - Montreal, QC (bid accepted at special meeting prior to Durham) July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend
- 2027 - Albuquerque, NM (bid accepted at Durham convention) July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend
- 2028 – Denver, CO (bid accepted at Durham convention; host hotel and dates not yet confirmed, either Memorial Day weekend or July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend)
- 2029 – expression of interest from Palm Springs, CA, possibly Memorial Day weekend

Election of Officers:

- Chair: Ed Zeigler was re-elected for another 2-year term.
- Treasurer: Justin Cranshaw-Lopton was re-elected for another 2-year term
- Vice-Chair - Kelly Shortandqueer is entering the second year of a 2-year term.
- Secretary – Jim Babcock is entering the second year of a 2-year term.
- Club Liaison – Joel Smith is entering the second year of a 2-year term.