

**Minutes from the Independence Squares Board Meeting  
November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:00 PM**

**Board Members in Attendance: Dave, Marika, Peg, Sarah, Steve**

**Board Members Absent: Ron, Vinney**

**Guests in Attendance: Linda, Will**

Secretary's Report – Sarah

**Steve made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Peg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer & Finance Committee Reports – Ron

The written Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes. Ron was not present to discuss the reports. Prior to the meeting, Mike sent an email addressed to Ron and copied to the rest of the Board requesting that the expense of the reduced admission program be detailed in club financial reports. As Ron was not present, discussion of Mike's email was tabled until next month.

Caller Liaison Report - Mike/Linda

The written report is attached to these minutes. There was confusion about the idea of starting a Plus class in January 2025, with Mark and some others believing it was agreed on and others believing it was not decided yet. Linda said Mark was concerned about starting a Plus class and wanted guidance from the Board. He said he would not be comfortable finishing by the Fly-In. There was a discussion over email. Marika reported that three Mainstream graduates thought the class was happening and were happy about it. There was a discussion about whether to finalize the decision. The Board decided not to make a decision until Vinney can survey the Mainstream graduates and give his opinion.

Linda asked about the venue for Summer Splash 2025, and Steve said that the same venue as last year has been reserved.

The Caller Liaison Committee recommends that the club not meet on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, when both Mark and Betsy will be gone. Linda raised the possibility of hiring a caller who would call over Zoom while the club danced at the church, but she was not in favor. Board members in general were not in favor. Marika suggested having a game night or social event at the church when we can't dance. Linda reported that the Caller Liaison Committee is having difficulty finding substitute callers for Tuesday nights. There was a discussion of various alternatives. Linda will consult Mike and Jim B. in New York about the feasibility of using Zoom. On nights when only one caller is available, dancing will proceed with one caller.

Dayle has been hired for Summer Splash 2025. Chesapeake Squares want to hire Cameron to call part of the time in addition to Dayle, and DC Lambda Squares agreed, but they want our opinion. Hiring Cameron would add somewhere between \$100 and \$200 to the cost. Mike and Linda expressed reservations about hiring Cameron, as did some Board members. David B. suggested asking Chesapeake Squares if they have spoken to Dayle about it. The Board is willing to consider the possibility of hiring Cameron once we have confirmation Chesapeake Squares has spoken to Dayle and know what his response to them was. Steve will draft an email to Chesapeake Squares.

#### *Fly-In Committee Report – Steve*

There was no report. Steve reported that callers have been hired through 2026, and the committee is looking for callers for 2027.

#### *Communications Report – Marika*

The written report is attached to these minutes. The club Facebook and Instagram have now been connected with Meta Business Suite, a free social media tool. All Join Hands is providing free Canva Pro accounts to all IAGSDC members, and Marika set up a club account. They offered to prepare a training document or an educational Zoom session about Canva for club members or even members of other clubs, probably in the new year. Arin has offered to do a three to five-minute class on taking photos and videos of dancing. Marika will ask Arin if they could do the presentation for the club on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Marika will publicize upcoming dates when the club is not dancing on social media and sent out reminders.

#### *Advanced/Challenge Report – Peg*

Peg did not submit a written report. She said she thought workshops were going well, and Mark is happy with the Advanced workshop. Peg will reach out to Advanced/Challenge dancers who have not been dancing on Tuesday nights recently. A few Advanced/Challenge dancers have signaled that they would be willing to be angels for the Plus class.

#### *Mainstream/Plus Report – Vinney*

There was no Mainstream/Plus report.

#### *Church Rental Agreement – Steve*

The Lutheran Church sent the club a new contract to sign. Steve emailed the Board about this. The increase in rent will add up to between \$300 and \$400 annually. The rent will be \$5 more every time we use the rooms where we dance and \$5 more per month for the storage unit. Steve recommends that we accept the terms of the contract except for the clause that specifies a rate increase for 2026. In the past, Steve was successful in getting the church to remove a

similar clause. David B. said he would like to hear Ron's opinion before approving the contract, but he would be willing to sign it as soon as Ron approved.

**Steve made a motion that, pending Ron's agreement, the Board accept the proposal from the Lutheran Church minus the clause imposing a mandated increase for 2026. David B. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### Tee Shirt - Linda/Peg

Linda spoke about the research she did into getting tee shirts printed. She found a company that offered 50 screen-printed cotton shirts for an estimated \$510. The price per shirt would be greater for a smaller order. Linda stated she did not want to be involved in any further design decisions. Marika, as designer, said they will work with whoever places the tee shirt order to ensure the design image meets the printing company's requirements. Marika proposed that we take pre-orders and determine how many tee shirts to order at the next Board meeting based on the number of pre-orders. They offered to make a Google form for pre-orders. David B. offered to print out paper forms for those who do not want to submit a form electronically. The tee shirts will be sold for \$10, to be paid when the customer picks their shirt up. The Board will decide on the expenditure at the next Board meeting.

#### Facilities Committee – Steve

Nobody has volunteered for the Facilities Committee. Steve would like to have a longer discussion about this at a later date. More immediately, we need volunteers to cover opening the doors to the Lutheran Church in January and February when Steve will not be available. Steve wanted to limit these volunteers to Board members or long-term club members. David B. offered to work with Steve to approach club members about volunteering to open the doors.

#### Action Items

- Dave will ask Vinney about the response to the proposed Plus class.
- Linda will talk to Mike and Jim B. about logistics for calling over Zoom.
- Steve will email Chesapeake Squares about Summer Splash, asking if they talked to Dayle about hiring Cameron.
- Marika will take on Canva training, publicize the photography training session with Arin, and create pre-order forms for tee shirts.
- Steve will send David B. a list of people to ask about opening and closing the church.
- Steve will ask Ron for his thoughts about the contract from the Lutheran Church.

The next Board meeting will be on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Paulos  
Secretary, Independence Squares

**Independence Squares Treasurer's Report**  
**November 13, 2024**

Attached is the October month-end financial summary.

Items of note, previously reported to the board via email on 11/9/2024:

- Our "Other Income" increased by \$4.00 due to cash that was found recently in the box that was turned over to me by the previous treasurer. I have no idea what this cash was for, so I credited it to "other income".
- Our bank balances have decreased significantly due to two payments that were made to the Sheraton for our 2025 and 2026 Fly-In's. We paid an additional \$2400.00 for the 2025 Fly-In and \$2500.00 for the 2026 Fly-In. We have now paid \$3600.00 to the Sheraton for our 2025 event and \$4100.00 for 2026. Those figures are reflected on the Balance Sheet under "Other Assets ~ Prepaid Fly-In Expenses".

Other items of interest are as follows:

- Our 2025 insurance premium of \$413.00 was remitted to the USDA on 11/12/24. We have 66 members, but 7 of them are covered by other clubs. The per member premium is \$7.00.
- It was noted in last month's report that we must remit a list of our new class members to the USDA for insurance coverage and that Ron would do so after the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of classes. That task has been completed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron R

## Caller Liaison Report

### Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – November 13, 2024

The information below is accurate as of Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 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 2026

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place April 2024 through March 2026.

Saturday, December 7, 2024 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Dayle Hodge – Merion Friends Meeting House 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Saturday, January 4, 2025 – Advanced and C1 Mark Franks 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, February 15, 2025 – Mainstream and Plus Kent Forrester 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, March 15, 2025 – Advanced and C1 Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

April 2025 Fly-in: Callers: Jeremy Butler, Vic Ceder, Don Moger April 4-6, 2025 Sheraton Bucks County

Saturday, April 19, 2025 – 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm Mainstream and Plus; 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Dinner (Social?); 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm Advanced and C1 Dayle Hodge

Saturday, May 31, 2025 – Mainstream and Plus with Advanced Star Tip Wheel Around NJ II Dan Koft 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm People Care Center, Bridgewater, NJ Joint dance with Times Squares

Saturday, June 7, 2025 – Mainstream and Plus Pride Dance Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, August 23, 2025 – Summer Splash All-level dance Mainstream through C1 – Dayle Hodge 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek – Joint Dance with DC Lambda Squares and Chesapeake Squares

Saturday, October 11, 2025 - 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm Mainstream and Plus; 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Dinner (Social?); 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm Advanced and C1 John Hawley

Saturday, December 6, 2025 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Mark Franks – Merion Friends Meeting House 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

March 2026 Fly-in: Callers: Sandie Bryant, Ted Lizotte, Chris Phillips March 13-15, 2026 Sheraton Bucks County

#### Open Houses and Classes

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 – Mark Franks will replace the Mainstream Workshop with a Plus Class

## FYI Notes

- 1) Discussions were held with the callers and members of the Caller Liaison Committee and then with the board at a previous meeting and the following recommendations were made and approved for classes beginning in September 2024.
  - A) Betsy will call the Mainstream class and a C1 workshop. There are insufficient numbers of dancers to begin a new C1 class.
  - B) Mark will call a Mainstream workshop and an Advanced workshop. The Mainstream workshop will provide the newly graduated Mainstream class members an opportunity to hone their skills. The Advanced workshop will provide the newly graduated Advanced dancers an opportunity to hone their skills as well.
  - C) In January 2025, the Mainstream workshop will become a Plus class. Discussions were held with Mark Franks and there is a sufficient number of students, both new and returning, to hold a Plus Class. The students will not be ready with Plus for the fly-in but will have completed the class by the end of the term in May 2025. The Mainstream workshop will not continue. Vinney Finlay has agreed to talk with the students who are not ready to continue on to Plus and encourage them to continue on in the current Mainstream Class to strengthen their skills.
- 2) Saturday, August 2025 Summer Splash – Details to be worked out by which club? Dayle has been hired as the caller, so the only remaining detail to be worked out is confirmation of the space. My memory is a bit foggy here, but has this already been worked out?
- 3) Similar to last year, after some feedback, we are recommending not hiring another caller on nights when only one of the callers is out that evening. The programs to be called those nights had been the Mainstream class and the Advanced workshop, however, with the beginning of the Plus class in January 2025, the Mainstream and Plus classes should be called on those nights when only one caller is available.
- 4) As of this writing, Mark Franks will be out on October 15, 2024 and April 15, 2025. Betsy Gotta will be out on January 7, 2025 and April 15, 2025. Please note that they will both be out on April 15, 2025 as they will be attending CallerLab. The board should consider going dark that night unless a reasonable substitute can be found.

# Communications Coordinator Report

## November 13, 2024

Arin Barth has offered to attend an upcoming board meeting to provide a short (around 5 minutes) mini-lesson with tips for taking photos and videos of square dance events to support our social media. Is the board interested in scheduling that?

Marika Barth has volunteered to prepare a Canva 101 training document and/or lead a training session for any club members interested in using Canva to create flyers or other club graphics. Is there interest? And, if so, would it make sense to extend an invitation to any other clubs to join since they now have access to this resource too?

Updates:

- The updated financial assistance application approved at the previous board meeting can now be accessed on the [Independence Squares website](#).
- Steve Demos and I met on Wednesday, October 23rd to discuss management our club Facebook page and group. I am now maintaining the Independence Squares Facebook page. Steve continues to maintain the Facebook group. Thank you, Steve! The Facebook page will start to feature similar content to our Instagram showing off Independence Squares events, advertising upcoming events, and promoting square dancing and our club.
- Our club Facebook page and Instagram have now been connected and set up with Meta Business Suite. This is a free tool available to all business or community organization Facebook and Instagram pages. It allows posts to be shared to both the Facebook and Instagram at once, posts to be scheduled in advance, and detailed metrics about post engagement to be reviewed. Currently myself, Steve Demos, and Arin Barth are able to post to the Independence Squares social media pages using Meta Business Suite
- All Join Hands is providing a free Canva Pro account to each IAGSDC club. Thank you All Join Hands! Independence Squares now has a single login for a Canva Pro account that can be used to create flyers or other graphics for club use. It is connected to our club email address and access to the email address will be needed to use it. (Access code is sent to the email account each time you log in.)

Upcoming:

- An email will be sent later this month reminding dancers about the upcoming Glitter Ball. Let me know if there are any items you would like included in that email.
- I am monitoring the possibility of a strike impacting SEPTA services and will email the Google Group regarding potential transportation issues if a strike actually occurs.
- I am starting to advertise the upcoming fly-in on social media.



Ongoing:

- Please send any photos you take at Independence Squares events to me at [marikabarth@hotmail.com](mailto:marikabarth@hotmail.com) for use on social media!
- Please consider submitting info for a Square Dancer Snapshot on Instagram. You can do so [here](#) or email me a photo and some fun facts about yourself. I will run the finished “snapshot” by you prior to posting. Thank you George Voorhis, Leda, Roy, and Arin for sharing info for snapshots already!