

Minutes from the Independence Squares Annual Meeting of Members June 3rd, 2025 at 7:00 PM via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: Dave B., Marika, Peg, Ron, Sarah, Steve, Vinney

Board Members Absent: none

Total Participants: approximately 33

President's Remarks

Dave B. welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reflected on the past ten months since he stepped in to fill the vacant President position, highlighting the club's accomplishments such as the record-setting Fly-In attendance, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* article about Independence Squares, and graduating two classes with seven students each. He also thanked Betsy and Mark, each of the Board members, and other volunteers for their contributions to the club.

Voting

Steve gave the instructions for voting via ElectionBuddy. Dave B. reminded everyone of the slate of candidates. Members will also vote whether to approve last year's annual meeting minutes at the same time. Ron and Steve went over the proposed bylaw changes and their rationales. Afterwards, there was time for questions and comments from the members. Bob asked if the bylaw changes would allow an officer who is in a personal relationship with another officer to be a signer with someone other than their partner, and Ron said that they would. Linda questioned whether Recommendation #1 was necessary, as any two members could collude with each other regardless of their personal relationship. Ron acknowledged that this would still be a risk but pointed out that two people in an intimate relationship will naturally share financial goals. Before voting, Dave B. asked if anyone wished to run as a write-in candidate, and no one put themselves forward.

Recommendation #1: Add the following language: "Members who share the responsibilities of an elected Office are not permitted to jointly sign any checks or any contracts of The Organization or jointly approve any disbursement of funds. Officers who are in a personal relationship with each other are not permitted to jointly sign any checks or any contracts of The Organization or jointly approve any disbursement of funds."

Recommendation #2: Change the requirement to "ensure that at least the Treasurer and three other Board members become signatories of the club bank account(s) in a timely fashion for the duration of their term(s) of office" to "ensure that the President, the Treasurer, and up to two other Board members become signers on the club's financial account(s) in a timely fashion for the duration of their term(s) of office."

Recommendation #3: Change the line, "The [nominating] committee shall provide the

Secretary with a prepared ballot no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting” to “The committee shall provide the Secretary its recommended slate of candidates no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.”

Voting began at 7:30 PM.

Committee Overviews

To encourage volunteering and let members know more about the committees that help run the club, representatives gave a brief overview of each committee. Dave B. thanked Linda for coming up with this idea. There will also be a “job fair” with tables for each committee at the June 7th dance. Dave B. spoke for the Bylaws Committee, which has not been active recently. Mike spoke for the Caller Liaison Committee. Linda spoke for the Health and Safety Protocols (HASP) Committee. Ron spoke for the Fly-In Committee. Peg has volunteered to assume the role of registrar for the Fly-In. Steve spoke for the Facilities Committee, which needs an official chair and volunteers. Dave B. spoke about the Nominating Committee. Chris spoke about the Communications/Publicity Committee. Steve spoke about the Recruitment Committee.

Financial Report

Ron went through the profit and loss cumulative report for the fiscal year up through April 30th, 2025. The bank statements for May did not arrive in time for Ron to include them in the report, but he will make the financial report for the entire year available upon request later. The Fly-In this year was highly profitable, in part because of the generosity of everyone who contributed to the baskets. Ron repeated his statement from last year that the club has benefited from high interest rates and the Finance Committee has been working to maximize our interest returns, but this will not last as interest rates are starting to decline. He commented that the club’s bank balance is very high for a group of our size. The Board will consider how the club’s savings can be used to benefit our members, but Ron also advocated for caution in spending. He encouraged anyone who is interested in being a Treasurer in the future to talk to him or Katherine and Cindy. Dave B. thanked Ron for his work as Treasurer over the past two years.

Election Results

Peg announced the election results at 8:15 PM.

Minutes from last year’s annual meeting – approved

Recommendation #1 – approved

Recommendation #2 – approved

Recommendation #3 – approved

President-elect: Marika

Treasurer: Katherine and Cindy (jointly)

Secretary: Sarah

Advanced/Challenge Program Rep: Dave T.

Mainstream/Plus Program Rep: Kellie and Eileen (jointly)
Communications Coordinator: Chris
Steve will assume the presidency at the end of the annual meeting.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Last year's winner, Linda, announced the volunteer of the year, Pattie. Linda praised Pattie's hard work, creative problem solving, and generosity with her time. Pattie's work managing and organizing the baskets at each Fly-In has been a major contribution to the club.

Incoming President's Remarks

Steve thanked Dave B. and the rest of the outgoing Board and said he looked forward to working with the new Board. He is committed to maintaining open lines of communication even when he will not be physically in Philadelphia. Club members exchanged many positive comments with each other in the Zoom chat.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah
Secretary, Independence Squares