

**Minutes from the Independence Squares Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 25th, 2025, at 07:00 PM via Zoom**

Board Members Present: Chris, Dave T., Cindy & Katherine, Eileen & Kellie, Marika, Sarah, Steve

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Arin, Dave B., Deb, George R., Ron, Will

Approval of the Minutes – Sarah

Sarah made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Dave T. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Reminder about our Code of Ethics – Steve

There was a discussion about encouraging both Board members and guests to follow our Code of Ethics.

Treasurer's Report – Katherine and Cindy

Cindy gave the Treasurer's Report. The written materials are attached to these minutes. Income is lower than it has been historically because of the reduction in admittance fees. The Treasurer is not planning to open another CD between now and the Fly-In. The club has paid for insurance for the Mainstream class members; however, this policy only covers two dances outside of classes, and the Mainstream class is invited to more than two dances over the next year. For the Mainstream class to be covered for the Fly-In, we would have to buy additional insurance coverage.

Steve made a motion for the Treasurer to pay an additional fee to insure the Mainstream class members through their graduation in 2026. Eileen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Finance Committee recommended that we add Marika as a signer for the PNC account.

Steve made a motion that the Board approve making Marika a signer for the PNC account. Chris seconded. The motion passed with six votes in favor, Marika abstaining.

There was a discussion about obtaining a small games of chance license in Bucks County to hold raffles at the Fly-In.

Steve made a motion for the club to apply for a small games of chance license in Bucks County. Marika seconded. The motion passed with five votes in favor, one vote against, and one abstention.

Steve made a motion to accept Renee as a member of Independence Squares. Marika seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Encouraging New Callers

There was a discussion about forming a committee to develop a policy for encouraging the development of new callers. Chris will ask the Caller Liaison Committee if they would like to be involved with the new committee.

Facilities Committee – Steve and Sarah

Steve and Sarah toured a potential alternate rental venue that could be a good fit for a summer dance. Volunteers are needed to hold the second key to the church during the 10 weeks when Steve will be away at the beginning of 2026.

Publicity/Communications Committee – Chris

The written report is attached to these minutes. Marika drafted an email about planning non-dance social activities and sent this to the Board for comments. The committee will publicize the events that members organize and will maintain a calendar of these events.

Fly-In Committee – Ron

The written report is attached to these minutes. Ron reported that sales of registrations and hotel nights are going well. After getting approval from the Board, the Fly-In Committee decided to offer a contract to a fourth caller for 2027 and 2028. Dance fees will increase slightly in 2027 except for early bird registrations. At a previous Board meeting, there was a concern about the terms of keeping the bar open; Ron discussed this with the hotel and was told that the hotel will provide two bartenders at the beginning of the night and release one only if business slows down. The Fly-In Committee recommends that the Board approve and sign the contract that the committee forwarded. The Board approved the contract.

Mainstream and Plus Program Rep Report – Kellie and Eileen

Mainstream and Plus classes are going well. Eileen polled the Plus class to see if they felt the pace was too fast, and they said they preferred to be exposed to all the calls before the Fly-In rather than slow down. It is still unknown if the Mainstream class will be done by the Fly-In.

Advanced and Challenge Program Rep Report – Dave T.

Dave T. reported things were going well.

Caller Liaison Report

The written report is attached to these minutes. Mike was not present to give the report. After speaking with the Secretary and President of Times Squares, Steve has begun planning Wheel Around NJ 2026. Steve recommended People's Care for the location and a timeframe of 3 to 6 PM. There was a discussion about whether Independence Squares should hold more dances during the summer.

Marika made a motion to hold a dance on one of the last two Tuesdays in July, preferably at a location other than the Lutheran Church. Eileen seconded. The motion passed with six votes in favor and one abstention.

Schedule of Meetings for March and April

The Board agreed to meet on March 18th and April 9th.

Discussion of Hiring Callers

Dave B. made a statement expressing dissatisfaction with the hiring of a specific caller and asking that the communications from him, Tim, Mike, and Linda be included in the minutes.

At this point, all non-Board members left the meeting.

The other two clubs involved in Summer Splash 2027 are interested in hiring a second caller for the event. The question will be forwarded to the Caller Liaison Committee.

There was a discussion about the controversial caller. No motions were made. The Board will ask the Caller Liaison Committee to draft a list of criteria that would make a caller ineligible to be hired by Independence Squares. The Board agreed that communications from Dave B., Tim, Mike, or any others would not be included in the minutes. No other decision was made.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 PM. The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, January 8th.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah
Secretary, Independence Squares

Treasurer's report for November, 2025 board meeting

(reporting on income and expenses for October, 2025)

Income for October came from:

- Dance admission fees - Tuesday classes and the combo dance on 10/11
- Interest income from the LiveOak CD's and Savings accounts and
- Membership dues - Stephen Raytek renewed his membership (Total members now = 71)

Expenses for October:

- Standard expenses - caller fees, LCHC hall rental, storage unit, PayPal fees
- Dancer insurance - to cover Stephen Raytek for the remainder of 2025
- Outreach and Recruiting - reimbursement for social media expenses
- HASP expense - motion sensor light
- Glitter Ball hall rental (final installment (\$187.50) and security deposit (\$150.00))

Our expenses exceeded our income for the month by \$1,244.69.

The LiveOak 6-month CD reached maturity on 10/23/2025 and the closing value of \$5,096.85 was moved into the LiveOak Savings account.

Upcoming for the November report:

- We transferred \$2,000.00 from LiveOak Savings to PNC Checking to insure we could cover expected November expenses. A similar transfer will likely be required to cover December expenses.
- Payment was submitted for dancer insurance for 2026 for 64 members (7 are covered by other clubs)
- Renee Franks became a member just after we mailed the dancer insurance payment - we will be sending payment for her separately for both 2025 and 2026. (Total members now = 72)

FYI, attendance for Tuesday night classes so far:

9/23 - 40

9/30 - 44

10/7 - 44

10/14 - 54

10/21 - 38

10/28 - 47

11/4 - 38

11/11 - 41

11/18 - 38

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy and Katherine

Co-Treasurers

Publicity and Communications Committee Report

Hello friends,

Here is a brief report from the publicity and communications committee.

- Marika gave a fine training session on Canva on November 12. The participants were Roy, Cindy, Sarah, Steve, Chris and 3 guests from other IAGSDC clubs.
- Roy, Cindy, Sarah, Steve, Chris and Marika signed up to create the ten flyers we need for 2026. Roy and Steve have shared drafts of their flyers.
- The committee is clarifying the logistics of reviewing and printing these flyers.
- Chris made several updates to the website as requested by Steve, Ron and others.
- Chris added several new club members to the independencesquares Google Group.
- Photos from Betsy's birthday celebration were shared to our Facebook group.
- As discussed at the October meeting, Marika is encouraging club members to organize non-dance activities. Chris will keep a calendar of these events and help to promote participation.

Comments are welcome. I look forward to our meeting tonight.

Chris, Publicity Dude

Independence Squares Fly-In Committee Report

November 25, 2025

A committee meeting was held on Friday, November 21, 2025. Important matters for the board's information are listed below. A complete copy of the minutes of this meeting is available upon request.

Numbers update

We have 115 registrants and \$10,825 in registration fees. Our budget for registration fees is \$13,000. We have 89 room nights sold. We have a room block of 140 rooms, with an obligation to sell 112 rooms.

Bar contract

At last month's board meeting, a request was made to sign off on the amended hotel contract to approve the terms of the bar. The board pushed back because the contract stated "(2) Bartenders - Depending on Business Needs", which implies that we might not have two bartenders. Ron followed up with the hotel and was advised that in order to assure two bartenders for the full time that the bar is open for our extended hours, there would be a fee of \$150.00. However, the hotel clarified this policy as follows: "(2) Bartenders – Depending on Business Needs" simply means that we will begin the event with two bartenders, but if business slows down later in the evening, one may be released as service demand decreases". This is the same policy that the hotel had in place for our 2025 Fly-In and they tell us that they did indeed release one of the bartenders one evening after the business slowed down. The Fly-In committee is comfortable with this arrangement and recommends that the board approve and sign the revised Event Orders (3) and Check Reports (3) that have been forwarded to the board with this report.

Baskets

Ron noted that the board is looking into a game of chance license and will report back to the committee about this after the next board meeting.

2027 Fly-In (April 2-4, 2027)

Theme

We previously decided on a Sci-Fi theme, but it's been noted that we need to better define that. We agreed on an "Intergalactic" theme.

Guest caller

The board previously approved the hiring of a 4th caller for the 2027 and 2028 Fly-Ins as recommended by our committee. The committee agreed to make an offer to John Hawley. Ron will work with Mike to put together a contract that adheres to the board's mandate that total renumeration not exceed \$1,000, including professional fee, travel expenses, meals, and lodging.

Dance fees for 2027

We agreed on a slight increase in dance fees due to continuing hotel cost increases and the cost of a 4th caller, as follows:

- Early bird: \$95.00 (March 13, 2026, through May 4, 2026) No increase from 2026
- Mid registration: \$125.00 (May 5, 2026, through March 2, 2027) \$10 increase from 2026
- Late registration: \$145.00 (After March 2, 2027) \$15 increase from 2026

[Note: We did not discuss a "First Timer" rate and will be sure to do so at our next meeting.]

2028 Fly In (March 31-April 2, 2028)

The hotel has us on the calendar but won't give pricing until August, but Ron will reach out again in January. Linda expressed the need to continue looking for a different venue for 2028 and Ron will add this to notes for follow up. Ron will talk with Helms Brisco, an event broker, about possibly helping us find another venue to consider. Callers were previously agreed upon as Michael Kellogg, Betsy Gotta, and Justin Russell. The committee agreed to hire Brian Jarvis as our "guest caller" as outlined previously in the same topic above for the 2027 Fly-In. Ron will work with Mike to extend an offer to each of these callers.

Next meeting: January 9, 2026

Caller Liaison Committee Report

Good evening,

As I will not be at the board meeting this month, I wanted to give you a quick update. There are no changes for the Caller Liaison Committee Report for November 2025, so please refer to the October report for any information. As to the club shirts, I will have samples to show in December and they can go on sale at any time after that but will not be produced until January 2026. This is by arrangement with the vendor. I will also have codes to give to each of the members who are eligible for the subsidy for the club shirt. Other items can be ordered but the subsidy is only for the club uniform.

Have a good Thanksgiving.

Mike