

Staten Island Ballroom Dancers  
Minutes for Meeting #676 on January 8th, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Pattiann Ferrara at 7:34 pm.

Pattiann introduced Denise Pianoforte as our new Vice President. Pattiann then handed the gavel over to Joan Springstead who became our new President.

Vinny Laraia presented Pattiann with the Club's Past President Pin and announced her membership in the Past Presidents Advisory Committee.

Joan began her presidency with a Pledge Of Allegiance.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MATTERS:**

RECORDING SECRETARY MATTERS (Marilyn Laraia): Marilyn read the prior month's minutes which were accepted by the Club.

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY (Maryann Mazza): Maryann said that she sent a get well card from the Club to Jerry Mulnick after his elbow surgery.

TREASURER (Mike Marinaccio): Mike reported that our balance at year end was \$6,400 and that the Club is in good shape financially. Joan mentioned that Mary Basso will perform our annual audit for the Club.

VICE PRESIDENT (Denise Pianoforte): Denise thanked Bill Trochiano and Inna Mogilevsky for tonight's coffee and cake. She also thanked Frank Byrne for setting up the room tonight. Denise needs volunteers to handle coffee and cake for our future meetings. If no one volunteers, she will make calls to those who have not hosted a meeting in a long time.

PRESIDENT (Joan Springstead): Joan said that the Club will celebrate its 65th anniversary at the October Dance and asked for volunteers to sign up for a committee to plan how the anniversary can be celebrated. Vinny Verde mentioned that he displayed a video of past Club events at the 60th Anniversary Dance in a corner of the ballroom. He asked that members send him photos or videos to be included in an updated video. He suggested the Club assign a Host for the evening's event.

Joan said that the purpose of our Club is to enjoy ballroom dancing. She also said that our website has a wealth of information and that we should explore it.

Joan presented our new Vice President's background. Denise has been a member of the Club for 10 years. She was brought in by Jerry & Linda Mulnick who knew her from the Greenbelt. Denise enjoys traveling (especially on Viking cruises), bowling and ballroom dancing.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

MEMBERSHIP (Jerry Mulnick): Tom Springstead and Vinny Laraia filled in for Jerry and said that 51 people attended tonight's meeting and \$255 was collected. The Club has lost

2 couples: Richard & Mary Elkeseth Pisano resigned because of a long commute from Hillsborough, NJ. Yesterday, Bobby & Mary Recor resigned due to health reasons. Membership is at 105 paying Members and 9 Honorary Members.

EXAMINER ( Vinny Ferrara & Vinny Laraia ): Nothing to report

PUBLICITY ( Tina Murphy): Tina was not at the meeting but she sent photos from the last dance to Gary for posting on the website.

SOCIALS (Ann Marie McDonnell): The next lesson will be Dancing to the Oldies, Part 2. The cost will be \$35 per person based on the number of members attending. The lessons will be conducted on January 15th & 22nd and February 5th & 19th. There will be an Open Social Dance on January 29th, a Club meeting on February 12th and an Open Social Dance on February 26th.

WEBSITE (Gary Burkhardt): Gary updated the new positions on the Board and uploaded the photos and videos from the last dance. Gary reiterated that the password is chacha.

DANCE HOST ADVISOR (Ana Cosentino): Ana said she will work with our upcoming dance hosts.

DANCE DJ's (Neil Seff): Neil did not attend the meeting but arranged for Carlos to DJ the February 15th Dance and Brandis the April 12th Dance.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Club brought canned goods to St. Anthony's for the food pantry at Our Lady of Pity Church.

The subject of line dancing for the benefit of members without partners was discussed at length. One question was how to include line dancing in Club lessons. While Jeff is capable of teaching line dancing, it is not practical to include it in our Club lessons. There are other opportunities on the Island for learning line dancing. Further, the Club has voted in the past to limit line dancing to no more than 2 times at any dance so most members would not take these lessons. Other members of the Club took additional private lessons with Brandis by renting our hall on a different night. If enough members want to arrange for private lessons with Jeff, then that option would be available to them. The matter of line dancing was tabled for future consideration.

Upcoming Dances:

February 15th at the Crystal Room, 6:30 - 10:30 pm.

Hosts: Jeff Shelley & Marisa Calabrese and Raymond Urciuoli & Roseann Divernieri.

The Club held a Moment of Silence and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

*SIBD Board*

*President  
Joan Springstead*

*Vice President  
Denise Pianoforte*

*Treasurer  
Mike Marinaccio*

*Recording Secretary  
Marilyn Laraia*

*Correspondence Secretary  
Maryann Mazza*