

Staten Island Ballroom Dancers
Minutes for Meeting #678 on March 12, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Springstead at 7:40pm with a Pledge of Allegiance.

One new couple was introduced into the Club: Joe Mazza & Anna Pallotta, sponsored by Neil & Angie Seff. Joan mentioned how fortunate we are to recruit like-minded members like this couple. She said that Joe gave one of his kidneys to his brother Richie, our long-time member. She also said that Anna has volunteered for several worthy charities, including Eger's Nursing Home, Staten Island University Hospital and the March of Dimes among others.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MATTERS:

RECORDING SECRETARY MATTERS (Marilyn Laraia): Marilyn read the prior month's minutes which were accepted by the Club. Marilyn reported that Vice President Denise Pianoforte is in Staten Island University Hospital. She recently had heart surgery and is currently recovering from a bout of pneumonia. She expects to be released in a day or two.

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY (Maryann Mazza): Richie Mazza filled in for Maryann and give this report: Maryann sent a get well card from the Club to Rudy & Luz Hernandez on the passing of their grandson. Rudy & Luz sent a thank you card back to the Club thanking everyone for their cards, thoughts & prayers. Maryann visited Santo & Martha Scaltro. Due to health issues, they will not be rejoining the Club.

TREASURER (Mike Marinaccio): Mike did not attend the meeting but reported thru Joan that the Club paid \$508 to subsidize the February dance. The Club has a balance of \$12,540.

VICE PRESIDENT (Denise Pianoforte): Filling in for Denise, Joan thanked Mary Basso, Helen O'Toole & Gaetana Esposito for tonight's coffee and cake. She also thanked Frank Byrne for setting up the room tonight.

PRESIDENT (Joan Springstead): Joan listed the hosts for upcoming dances:

April 12th	Vinny & Pattiann Ferrara and Jim and Maria Dolce
June 7th	Gary Burkhardt & Ana Cosentino and Manuel & Nelly Peraza
August 9th	Ernie & Vicki Serrano and Sergey Shimshovich & Olga Berlai
October 11th	George Concepcion & Betsy Greene
December 6th	SIBD Board

Since George & Betsy have not hosted a dance before, Joan asked that an experienced couple volunteer to host the dance with them.

Pattiann Ferrara described the theme for the upcoming April Dance as a Speakeasy Ball. She encouraged members to come attired with something matching the theme. She mentioned black & white shoes for men and feathers in their hair for women. Amazon was mentioned as a source for clothing. It was also stated that dressing for the theme was not required and only a suggestion.

The October Dance is also when the Club is celebrating its 65th Anniversary. A committee is being formed of members to plan ways to celebrate the anniversary at the dance. Volunteers are welcome to join the committee. This is separate from the usual responsibilities of the hosts.

Joan mentioned that historically the Club has difficulty meeting the Crystal Room's requirement of 80 members at the August Dance. She asked that members try to attend that dance. The Crystal Room has been rather lenient in the past and has not raised the price to the Club more than \$1 per attendee. We should reciprocate by meeting this obligation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP (Jerry Mulnick): Angie & Neil Seff and Vincent Graziano worked the door and collected \$175 from the 35 members in attendance.

EXAMINER (Vinny Ferrara & Vinny Laraia): Nothing new to report. Vinny Ferrara mentioned that our new members are graduates of the Judy & Randy Dance School and displayed terrific enthusiasm during the application process.

PUBLICITY (Tina Murphy): Nothing to report.

SOCIALS (Ann Marie McDonnell): Ann Marie said that the remaining Tango/Rumba lessons will be held on March 19th, April 16th and April 23rd. There will be an Open Social on March 26th. There is no social on April 2nd because the hall is not available due to Holy Thursday.. Then there is another meeting on April 9th. The cost of the lessons will be \$35 per person based on the number of members attending. More members are welcome to attend beginning with the next lesson.

WEBSITE (Gary Burkhardt) & DANCE HOST ADVISOR (Ana Cosentino): Gary updated the info about our dances on the website including the latest flyer and dance host pictures along with last month's meeting minutes. The website was also updated with the following items where appropriate.

Ana updated the Guidelines on Hosting a Dance including:
A new "Email Regrets To" line in the dance flyer and also on the template on the website;
Announced that the cancellation cutoff is now 1 week before the dance;
Announced that checks need to be made out to Staten Island Ballroom Dancers, Inc;
Clarified that Birthday & Anniversary Announcements need to be made no later than 8:30 since some members leave early; and
Clarified that the raffle draw should start with the 3rd prize.

DANCE DJ's (Neil Seff): Neil said Brandis will DJ the April 12th Dance and our own Vinny Ferrara will DJ the June 7th Dance,

OTHER BUSINESS:

Upcoming Dances:

April 12th at the Crystal Room, 6 - 10pm.

Hosts: Vinny & Pattiann Ferrara and Jim and Maria Dolce.

Please mail your responses as early as possible.

Note: The June Dance was changed to June 7th, 6 - 10pm because of the availability of the Crystal Room.

Soroptomist Luncheon:

Angie Seff announced that the Ruby Awards Luncheon has sold out and that there will be a table of Club members. She thanked Marilyn & Vinny Laraia for adding the Luncheon Flyer to last month's minutes.

Ways to Make Payments to the Club

Tina Murphy raised a question regarding the use of Zelle to pay the Club rather than relying on US Mail service. She said it's used in her other club. Vinny Laraia mentioned that it's been used in his tennis club for several years. Neil Seff mentioned that in our Club we add information regarding being seated with other members as well as names of guests. Joan said she will take this under advisement and discuss it with Mike, our Treasurer, and with our computer staff, Gary & Ana.

The Club held a Moment of Silence and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

SIBD Board

President
Joan Springstead

Vice President
Denise Pianoforte

Treasurer
Mike Marinaccio

Recording Secretary
Marilyn Laraia

Correspondence Secretary
Maryann Mazza