

Staten Island Ballroom Dancers
Minutes for Meeting #681 on June 11, 2026

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

Joan & Mary Basso gave an update on Peter Ievoli. Peter has been undergoing tests all week at the hospital. As of today, no results have been released but hopefully the results of an MRI will be given tomorrow.

Maryann Mazza led a prayer for Pete and asked that we keep him in our prayers.

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 had nothing to report.

TREASURER (Mike Marinaccio): Mike said that 76 members and 2 guests attended the June Dance. The Club paid a \$337 subsidy for the dance and has a balance of \$11,710. Mike also mentioned that 1 person has shown interest in possibly replacing him as Treasurer.

Joan said that Mr. Simpson of the Moravian Hall is refunding our \$75 payment for last month's meeting because of our displacement to the basketball court. Apparently, the group that took over our meeting space was not supposed to be there that night.

VICE PRESIDENT (Denise Pianoforte): Denise thanked Margaret Barranco & Mario Cavuoto for tonight's coffee and cake. She also thanked Frank Byrne & Tom Springstead for setting up the room tonight.

PRESIDENT (Joan Springstead): Joan discussed the ongoing efforts for the Anniversary Dance in October. She met with the committee earlier tonight and said they are working hard. She also tasked Jerry Mulnick, our Membership Coordinator, to provide the date that each of us joined the Club.

Joan thanked the people who stepped up and assisted Pete after he collapsed. It was a very commendable response. She thanked Mary Basso for all the work she did to notify Pete's next of kin. Mary not only tried reaching family members by phone but also had her son going to their homes to try to notify them. This led to an extensive discussion of several Club safety issues listed at the end of the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP (Jerry Mulnick, Angie DePompo-Seff, Vincent Graziano, Tom Springstead & Neil Seff): Tom Springstead & Vincent Graziano worked the door and collected \$260 from the 52 members in attendance.

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

PUBLICITY (Tina Murphy): Tina did not attend the meeting but Joan reported that Tina took pictures at the dance..

SOCIALS (Ann Marie McDonnell): Ann Marie said that the last lesson of the Bolero/Cha Cha will be June 18th. The Pizza Party will be June 25th and there will be a nice variety of pizza. She thanked Gil & Rosario Inigo for volunteering to bring their special soup. If you would like to bring a dessert, please let Ann Marie know. Lessons will resume on the 3rd Thursday in September (the week after our September meeting).

Vinny Laraia said that he & Marilyn will be running the Summer Socials at St. Anthony's again this year. They will start on either July 2nd or July 9th. He will be taking a poll of the membership to determine if enough members intend to attend on the 2nd. Otherwise, the socials will begin on July 9th.

WEBSITE (Gary Burkhardt): Gary did not attend the meeting..

DANCE HOST ADVISOR (Ana Cosentino): Ana did not attend but sent Joan an email recommending that we use our phones to display our emergency contacts in light of what happened with Pete. See the discussion below and Ana's email is attached at the end.

DANCE DJ's (Neil Seff): Neil said that Peter Collins will DJ the August Dance, Brandis the October Anniversary Dance and David Ho the December Holiday Dance.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Need for Defibrillators

Peter's situation made us realize that there is no emergency equipment at this or possibly other venues where we dance. A Defibrillator Committee was formed composed of Larry Flaum, Riza Wong and Tom Zerega. They will look into what if any equipment is available at our dance venues. They will also look into what training can be arranged for us. While many of us have had training in the past, our training & certification is only good for 2 years.

Need for Emergency Contact Information

The difficulty in reaching Peter's emergency contacts made us realize that we need to have our information available. A variety of methods were discussed including making it available on our cellphones without needing a password. Another suggestion was adding it to a document that would be kept in the dance package that is passed to each dance host.

Email from Ana Cosentino to Joan

Hi Joan,

In light of the medical emergency that happened at The Crystal Room, please recommend to our members that it is a good idea to setup emergency contacts (aka ICE – In Case of Emergency contacts) on their cell phone. Emergency responders and doctors use these names to find the person they should notify if you get hurt or sick and cannot communicate that information yourself. Co-workers and friends can also use these names to notify a family member while waiting for help, e.g., an ambulance.

Emergency contacts, once setup, can be accessed without knowing the security code to your phone. If you swipe your phone without entering your security code, you will see “Emergency Call” or similar wording at the bottom of your phone. When you press “Emergency Call”, you will have the ability to add emergency contacts. In some cases you can also add medical information, e.g., allergies.

Depending on the brand and model of your phone, setting up emergency contacts can be slightly different, but you can google your brand and model to see how to set up emergency contacts specifically on your phone

Thanks, Ana

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

SIBD Board

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Joan Springstead

Vice President
Denise Pianoforte

Treasurer
Mike Marinaccio

Recording Secretary
Marilyn Laraia

Correspondence Secretary
Maryann Mazza