

Goodbye Spring and Hello Summer!

What a strange reality we've been living these past few months. With a fantastic graduation in January followed by the joy of a rollicking PDP, our Spring season of dance was gearing up to be a ton of fun. And then Covid-19 had to show up and ruin the party. Damn you, Covid-19!

On a serious note, I hope everyone is staying safe and keeping relatively sane during this period and while we may not be dancing and hugging as usual, the club is still alive and kicking and will be raring to go once we can all join hands again.

A big **Thank You to Mike Shagina** for organizing a “shelter at home” virtual dance night on May 11th. It was so much fun seeing everyone smiling and having fun dancing with phantoms (and a little freeform dancing to the very appropriate “Safety Dance” from Men without Hats) If you missed out and/or if you'd like to see another virtual dance on the schedule, please send a note to the board via the club's email address, Hotlanta.Squares@gmail.com.

As for what to expect this summer:

- **Our annual meeting and election of new officers will be held on June 15th @ 7:30pm via video conferencing.** An invite will be sent to all members by June 12th and will contain instructions on how to join.
 - The following board positions are open for nomination this year:
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Marketing Coordinator
 - Webmaster(for the sake of brevity in this email, I have not included descriptions but if you are interested in running for one of these positions and would like

to know more about it, you can see the descriptions in our [bylaws](#). You can also send an email to the club for a list of descriptions and/or reach out to the current board member holding that position.)

- **If you would like to self-nominate or nominate another member (please confirm with that person beforehand), please send your nominations to the club's email address (Hotlanta.Squares@gmail.com) before June 12th**
- **Any suggestions for amendments to our bylaws should be sent via email to the club's email address (Hotlanta.Squares@gmail.com) before June 12th**
- A ballot with board nominations and any suggested amendments will be distributed before the annual meeting and will be used by current members to cast their votes. Since we will be remote this year, each member will need to send back their ballot to the board for us to tally and report the results.
- **I encourage every current member to not only attend the meeting but consider running for a board position if you have not already served on the board.** It's a great way to get involved with the larger square dance community, bring fresh ideas into our weekly classes and monthly dances, and spread the joy of Hotlanta Squares with other clubs. Plus, our club's future is dependent on having a diverse representation of leadership with different viewpoints and skill sets.
- Lastly, I know that holding our annual meeting remotely is unorthodox and will most likely be a learning experience for everyone. But I do ask that everyone **keep universal positive regard in mind** by being accommodating and rolling with it as best you can.
- Sadly, because of the continued risk that Covid-19 poses on large gatherings and specifically on square dancing, **club activities will continue to be suspended during the months of June**

and July. We remain hopeful that we may return to some form of activity in the fall.

- In the meantime, there are various opportunities to get a virtual square dance fix and I encourage everyone to seek them out by getting involved on various Facebook square dance related groups such as the groups for IAGSDC, GSSDA, Suncoast Squares, Cuesta Squares, and Time Squares to name only a few.
- Speaking of Facebook, if you are on Facebook and you are not in the Hotlanta Squares Facebook group, please consider joining as it is the best way to not only stay informed but also to stay connected with other members. Note that the Hotlanta Facebook group is different than the Hotlanta Facebook page; the group is private which you must explicitly ask to join while the page is public and anyone can see/like/follow it.

Continue to stay safe, y'all!

Yellow Rocks,
Mark