

BYLAWS OF LAUGHING SQUARES, INC.

REVISED MAY 24, 2012

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the club shall be "Laughing Squares of Indianapolis, Incorporated", referred to as The Club throughout these bylaws.

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION

Laughing Squares is a non-profit corporation organized under the law of "An Act" approved 3-7-35, page 557, Act of 1935 of Indiana.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1: Dues for membership shall be determined by a majority vote of the members in attendance at a business meeting. Prior notification of a suggested change in dues will be presented to the members at least 30 days prior to the vote. Such annual dues include the portion payable to the Indiana Dancers Association.

Section 2: Officers are required to pay membership dues.

Section 3: Admittance fee for dances shall be established by a majority vote of the members in attendance at a business meeting as deemed necessary.

Section 4: Non-members shall become members by paying the membership dues for the year in advance and must have completed basic and mainstream lessons. The members in attendance at a business meeting shall have the right to reject anyone.

Section 5: All members shall pay for the costs of their badges.

Section 6: Graduating class members will pay one-half the membership fee to the balance of the year. They will also pay full year IDA dues.

Section 7: Laughing Squares is an adult club, and a prospective member must have reached the age of 18 to join. Exception: Those dancers under the age of 18, after having completed basic and mainstream lessons and whose parent(s), grandparent(s) or guardian(s) are members in good standing with Laughing Squares, may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, join the club as Honorary Non-Voting Members of the club after paying the cost of their Laughing Squares badge and the individual member cost of Laughing Squares insurance. Any dancer under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult member to participate in a club function.
(Revised 2012)

Section 8: Membership is open to couples and singles. (Revised 2010)

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS AND DANCE

Section 1: The intent of The Club is to dance 23 dances per year, weather permitting, with at least one free dance to the membership per year. Additional free dances may be determined at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 2: The Club will dance at a location selected by the members in attendance at a business meeting, keeping in mind the geographical location of the majority of the club members.

Section 3: The club will have at least eight business meetings each year to carry out the normal business activities. The annual meeting shall be the first meeting of the calendar year.

Section 4: All members present at the business meeting shall have a vote. A simple majority rules; a majority being one more than half. See Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary procedure.

Section 5: At the first business meeting after election, a copy of the by-laws will be presented by the President to each officer.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND THEIR SELECTION

Section 1:

- a. The officers of "Laughing Squares" shall consist of no less than President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers are members of the Board of Directors.
- b. Officers shall be elected by ballot annually in the month of November at the first regular dance of the month. All active club members are eligible to vote. Each person is entitled to one vote.
- c. A candidate must receive a majority of the eligible votes cast for a specific office in order to be elected to that office. A majority is one more than half of all eligible votes cast.
- d. Officers shall assume their official duties the first day of January and shall serve for a term of one year.
- e. A member shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 2:

- a. The nominating committee shall be composed of three club members. The chairperson will be appointed by the president. The nominating committee chairperson will appoint two members to serve with them.
- b. The nominating committee shall nominate at least one member(s) for each office to be filled and present its nominees at the second regular dance in the month of October at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- c. Only those members who have signified their consent to serve if elected shall be nominated for or elected to such office.

d. Duties of a Nominating Committee.

- (1) To select nominees who have the experience and qualities that meet the needs of the organization.
- (2) To interview prospective nominees personally, by telephone or mail, and secure their consent to serve if elected.
- (3) To present the slate of nominees at the October business meeting and no later than the last dance in October to the membership.

ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The President shall extend contracts to caller and cuer as directed by the Board of Directors; shall preside at all meetings; transact club business; create standing committees and appoint chairman to these committees; shall present a report at the regular dances welcoming, etc.; shall be chairman of the Board of Directors. The President is an ex officio member of all committees.

Section 2: The Vice-President assumes the duties of the President in the absence or disability of that officer to act. The Vice-President is responsible for coordination of special Dances and the preparation and submission of IDA advertising and other duties as delegated by the President.

Section 3: The Secretary keeps correct records of business proceedings, official membership lists, lists of committees, and a copy of the by-laws, conducts correspondence necessary in arranging events, and publishes a monthly newsletter. The Secretary will maintain all original contracts and fulfill all other duties as delegated by the President.

Section 4: The Treasurer collects all monies due the club; pays all authorized expenses; keeps the board and club members informed as to the financial condition of The club by regular reports; books in order at all times; handles guest lists; keeps records and distributes tickets for special events in which The Club participates; forwards the dues and mailing lists to IDA annually; files Federal - Tax Exempt Tax Form 990-N before May 15 at <http://epostcard.form990.org/default.asp> annually; files the Indiana Not For Profit status with the Secretary of State during the month of October at <http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/sos-berf/> and other duties as delegated by the President.

Section 5: All officers are expected to assist with lessons and accompany new dancers to open dances, and to attend all meetings.

Section 6: A vacancy occurring in any office due to a move, illness, or failure to carry out the functions of the office shall be filled for the unexpired term by a member elected by a majority vote of club members at a business meeting, notice of such election having been given. In case a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice-President shall serve notice of the election.

ARTICLE VII BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall consist of all present officers and the immediate past President.

Section 2: The Board will meet as deemed necessary by the Chairman of the Board.

Section 3: The President shall appoint an auditing committee at the annual meeting to audit the Treasurers accounts. The Board of Directors requires that bills be presented for payment within 60 days.

ARTICLE VII FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of The Club shall begin on January 1 and end on the following December 31.

ARTICLE IX STANDING COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES

Section 1: The President may create such standing committees as deemed necessary to promote square dancing and carry on the work of The Club. The term of each chairperson shall be one year or until the selection of a successor.

Section 2: No committee work shall be undertaken without the consent of the President.

Section 3: Four members shall be appointed to serve as delegates to Central Area IDA organization. They will attend The Club's business meetings and IDA meetings. They will keep The Club informed of IDA activities.

Section 4: The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

ARTICLE X PARLIAMENETARY AUTHORITY

Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure - latest edition - will be the guide for The Club's business meeting.

ARTICTE XI AMENDMENT PROCESS

Section 1: These by-laws may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given at least 30 days in advance to the entire membership

Section 2: A committee may be appointed to submit a revised set of by-laws as a substitute for the existing by-laws only by a two thirds vote of the members in attendance at a business meeting. The requirements for the revised set of by-laws shall be the same as in the case of an amendment.

Section 3: All adopted amendments will be effective immediately unless the amendment specifies otherwise.

ARTICLE XII DISSOLVING THE CLUB

A two-thirds vote by the membership may dissolve The Club or reorganize it. If in the event The Club has depleted its total assets or if the by-laws become inoperative and unable to govern the membership for the purpose of promulgating square and round dancing. If The Club is dissolved and the funds are in the Treasury, the monies shall be divided equally among the members in good standing, after all debts of The Club have been paid.

ARTICLE XIII CONTRACTS

Section 1: If an opening exists for the position of caller or cuer, the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, will appoint a committee to seek qualified candidates.

Section 2: The determination of the initial contract of a caller or cuer will be decided by a vote of the membership by mail-in ballot only.

Section 3: The determination to offer renewal contracts will be voted by the members present at a regular business meeting as they become due.

Section 4: A 60-day notification will be given by the President or by the caller or cuer if a contract is not to be renewed.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

All dancers not otherwise covered by these by-laws, after having successfully completed both the basic and mainstream square dance lessons, shall, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, be invited by The Club to become dues-paying members, if they so desire.