



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH. INC.

Minutes of the Teachers' Committee Meeting
Saturday, January 12, 2002

At the home of Don & Lin Pettengill. Armin called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.

Attending: Cathy Bertics, Gene Bissel, Armin Busse, Juliet Davoren, Bruce & Jo Hamilton, Alex Harvey, Bruce Herbold, Paula Jacobson, Kathleen McAdam, Lin Pettengill, Alan Twigg.

Apologies: Ellen Aaron, Susie Langdon Kass, Sheena MacQueen, Avril Quarrie.

Old Business

1. Minutes of October 29, 2001 were discussed and accepted.

2. Report on the Teacher's Workshop 2001. There was enthusiastic praise for Johan Maclean's workshop, and discussion about logistical problems. It wasn't realized until the last minute that the hall does not have a piano, it was hard for many to make a Tuesday night event, and taking over an existing class meant there were several non-teachers there and nothing to offer them. On the other hand, if we pick a weekend date, then we either need an Asilomar teacher who can stay for the week, or have to hire a different teacher, with accompanying airfare. It was noted that when we have done the latter in the past, the Branch has subsidized us.

3. TAC Summer School. Kathleen reported "not exactly encouraging" results from her discussions with Cal State San Francisco. They cannot give us the facility she wants for any dates in August 2003. There may be some dates available in July, but the person who can commit to that isn't available until January 24. TAC is willing to continue waiting until then to hear the results. It was noted that Boston had offered to host the workshop for 2003 (back when everyone thought we were hosting 2001). Boston is willing to give us precedence. Kathleen said that if CSSF gives us an unsatisfactory answer about July, she plans to drop the thing. We have scoured the Bay Area, and no other facilities work. If you have any suggestion in reference to a possible location for the TAC AGM and Summer School in the Bay Area, please contact Kathleen.

4. Guidelines for Young People. Kathleen reported for Sheena. Some background: HQ sent a draft Code of Practice in July 2000 and we passed our own code based on it. Then HQ sent a revised code in Sept 2001. The committee is bringing the local code based on the September version, for comments from TC. Once TC approves it, they will send it to the Branch Committee for them to adopt. Jo Hamilton handed out copies of both the HQ and the local documents.

There was much discussion. At some points we disagreed about whether we disagreed, and after an hour we had covered only two points. In the end,

- On *content* of the items, we agreed on all but one point.

- There was some question about the relationship of these items to those in HQ's code: do these add rules, delete rules, strengthen or relax existing rules, explain unclear wordings, or adapt existing rules for local context?
- There was substantial disagreement on the intended *force* of the items: how rigidly they are to be interpreted, and how strictly they will be enforced. This is not a simple matter: the subject is extremely important (so we want the rules to be forceful) but generous amounts of common sense are required (so we want the rules to be flexible).
- There was substantial disagreement on the wording.

The subcommittee will make changes as appropriate and bring the document back to us at our March meeting.

Paula will ask the Branch Committee how strictly interpreted and enforced they think the code of practice should be.

5. Party Program Committees. Bruce Herbold reported that the Mar/Apr 2002 program is complete.

New Business

1. Selection of new Teachers' Committee

Chair: Armin Busse agreed to another term and was elected by unanimous vote.

Secretary: Bruce Hamilton was elected, with Jo dissenting :-).

Program Coordinator: Bruce Herbold agreed to continue and was elected by unanimous vote.

2. Due date for Jean Patrick Memorial Dance. Susie sent this item to the October meeting, where it was decided that since the matter was not urgent, it would be postponed until the January meeting. We discussed it at this meeting without reaching a conclusion. **Moved** (Jo/Bruce Hamilton): that we postpone discussion until the March meeting, in hopes that Susie can be present. **Carried.**

3. Selection of Party Program Committees

There were fairly few of us, and very few proxies sent in. **Moved** (Gene/Kathleen): that we postpone choosing committees for the parties with due dates in August or later until our next meeting. **Carried.** We chose some of those anyway, based on the preference of the volunteers.

Pleasanton	Avril (convener), Gene, TBD.....	due Jun 1, 2002
Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball	Paula (convener), Alan, TBD.....	due Apr 15, 2002
Oct / Nov	Jo, Armin.....	due Aug 1, 2002
Valentine's Ball	<not chosen>	due Aug 15, 2002
Dec / Jan.....	<not chosen>	due Oct 1, 2002
Mar / Apr.....	Juliet, Lin.....	due Dec 1, 2002
May / June	<not chosen>	due Feb 1, 2003

The Pleasanton and Kim McGarrity programmers will choose their third members.

4. Teacher Trainer Selection. We expect to have a candidate class starting in Fall 2002. Ron Wallace has taught the last 4 candidate classes. We think that he is willing to do another, and also willing to let someone else do the job. Normally, we choose the trainer in our January meeting,

but since we had not advertised the job and had no slate of candidates, we felt unprepared to make the choice now. **Moved** (Alan/Bruce Hamilton) that we postpone this item until our next meeting. **Carried**. After the March meeting we will put an item in the R&S announcing the tutor and inviting people to sign up for the course.

Everyone: if you are interested in running the teachers class this year, or working with Ron as preparation for running it in 2004-5, please tell Armin.

5. Fall 2002 Teacher's Workshop. Avril Quarrie, in her capacity as Teacher Liaison for the Asilomar Workshop, has invited Allison Russell to teach a workshop the weekend after Asilomar (Nov 9, 2002) and Allison has agreed. Allison hails from Ayr. She has taught classes all over the world, but this will be her first time in California.

Everyone: please send Avril any ideas or requests for subjects for that workshop.

6. Insurance. Alex Harvey handed out a list [attached] of branch classes and functions which the insurance company knows about. If an event is listed, branch members attending that event have our standard coverage: General Liability: \$3 million total; \$1 million per occurrence (covers officers, teachers, members and, if noted as "additional insured," landlords of the premises we use. Accidental Death & Dismemberment and medical: \$10k per occurrence max, \$250 limit on dental; no deductible — for members of the S.F Branch. This is a non-legal summary of Alex's understanding of the policies. For a complete description, refer to the original policies. [Your secretary is occasionally sorry that *intentional* death & dismemberment is not covered :-)]

A question was raised of coverage at highland games. In the past we have not bothered with them since we only had liability coverage and each games had their own. Now that we also have medical and d&d, Alex will add games to the list if someone tells him that we are dancing at them (he knows about Pleasanton).

Obviously, it is to our benefit to tell Alex about events — classes and other functions — that we are dancing in. This even works for ad-hoc events like a class demo at a convalescent home. It requires about a week's notice and ALL the information shown on the attached sheet. The insurance company needs ALL the information. If they get less they ask for the rest, but the clock keeps ticking (and it's extra trouble for Alex).

7. Low-key demonstrations. Juliet asked how we might set things up so that a person trying to coordinate a small, low-key demo could easily pick a medley, find music and assemble dancers (possibly from several classes). We support the idea and whoever chooses to coordinate such a thing, but concluded that it requires no action from the committee.

8. Monthly party short text. Lin asked if we could have text descriptions of dances at monthly parties, in parallel with the Pillings descriptions. Individual dancers (originally Alex Tweedly, currently Marilyn Stocker) do those. They are not a branch function. We took no action.

9. Other new business

9.1 Registry of teachers. Armin reminded us of the request from HQ to fill out and sign the questionnaire. Copies available from him if you did not get one. You can send filled-in copies to HQ, or Armin will forward them for you.

9.2 Text of dance descriptions. There was a request for photocopies, rather than re-typed text, of the description of the non-RSCDS dances placed on monthly parties. Bruce Herbold said it is his policy to do just that for paper mailings, but that he re-typed one dance because the quality of his copy was too poor to reproduce. He'll be more assiduous about photocopying in the future. He types them up for people who prefer to receive their copies by email.

There was mention of listing the devisor and source on the copies as well. Conclusion: those appear on the program listing. [Your secretary reminds everyone that dance directions have a tendency to get photocopied and passed around, and thus separated from their associated party program. It is thus good hygiene to write the devisor and publication on your copy.]

9.3 Teaching the kinesthetic learner. Thanks to Susie for the [enclosed] article from the CDSS News, and for securing permission to pass it around.

9.4 Pearl Holmberg workshop. For musicians and teachers. Vancouver, April 19-21. See <<http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/workshop2002.html>>.

10. Date and location for next meetings.

- March 16, 2002, at Kathleen McAdam's.
- June 22, 2002. Place TBD.
- September 21, 2002 at Paula Jacobson's.

Please review these dates and put them on your calendar. It is important to the branch that their teacher's voices be heard. Our collective voice is stronger if more of us participate.

Adjourned 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Hamilton