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SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.  
**Minutes of the Teachers' Committee Meeting**  
January 11, 2003

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At the home of Armin Busse. Armin called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm (some credited the on-time start to our having scheduled a videotape before the meeting).

**Present:** Cathy Bertics, Gene Bissell, Coletta & Armin Busse, Juliet Davoren, Sara Gratiot, Jo & Bruce Hamilton, Alex Harvey, Bruce Herbold, Paula Jacobson, Kathleen McAdam, Claudette Sigg, Alan Twigg.

**Regrets:** Ellen Aaron, Marianna Harvey, Susie Langdon Kass, Pat O'Brien, David & Avril Quarrie, Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace. Thanks to those who sent regrets *before* the meeting. That makes life easier on the hosts, and on your secretary and chairman in preparing for the meeting.

## **Old Business**

### **1 Minutes of meeting September 21, 2002**

**Moved** (Alan/Jo) to accept the previous minutes. **Carried.**

### **2 Party Program Committees**

Bruce Herbold reported that the Dec/Jan and Mar/Apr programs are out. The May/Jun programs are done and will be sent.

### **3 Report on Teachers' Workshop Nov 9, 2002**

We had 19 attendees, good teaching and good music. There was applause for the setup and food. The books have not closed, so we don't know how the finances turned out. Armin would have like to have more attending, and requests suggestions for how to make future ones better.

### **4 Report on Book 42 Workshop**

This was cancelled due to too few signups: we feared we'd be dancing with less than a set. (It was noted that our invitation didn't actually ask for RSVPs, only for replies from people willing to teach. Something to think about for all events.) The committee thanked Coletta for her hard work in getting it scheduled. We agreed that these things are useful, and we want to do them in future. The San Francisco class did in fact do a Book 42 workshop, but many found the time slot (Thursday night) and/or parking in the city to be obstacles. Also, a general workshop often can't cover issues of interest to teachers. We will try again at our next meeting. See below.

For future books, the TC solicits notes from attendees at St. Andrews, in whatever form is convenient: photocopies of annotated pages from the book, paper notes, email, whatever. We offer to distribute it/them.

## 5 Youth Guidelines

The last time we saw these, the Branch Committee had requested a few changes. We made those, so the subcommittee was expecting the BC to accept the guidelines on this round. Instead, the BC revised two sections, the primary effect of which was to delete language stating “It is not recommended that children under the age of 16 be regular members of an adult demonstration class or attend regular rehearsals.” The BC accepted the amended document.

The subcommittee was unhappy with the resulting document since it ignores issues of appropriate speed and sequence for children to develop, ignores the distorted view that a demonstration team teaches about social dancing, and fails to protect children from the late-night discussions that teams often get into.

Paula explained that, in the form we had sent it to the committee it carried a recommendation against a practice which one class was currently following, simultaneously stating that the BC “should take action when Branch classes ... disregard these guidelines.” Such a situation left the branch vulnerable to lawsuits.

Through a long and heated discussion, we realized that the youth subcommittee’s complaint is that the revised document doesn’t go far enough; there is no disagreement with what it *does* say. Further, the division is along appropriate lines: the BC is concerned with safety and the TC is concerned with pedagogy. Nothing prevents the TC from writing guidelines for teachers of children. The BC would not be expected to enforce those, but it is hard to legislate good practice anyway (and doing so often backfires). We were discussing how to write those (mostly who would do it) when Sara **moved** and Paula seconded that we add the following clause (underlined) to the document as modified by the BC:

When children under the age of 16 participate in adult demonstration classes or teams at any time, it is of the greatest importance that provision be made to respect their physical, emotional and developmental well-being, as well as their safety and privacy, including appropriate changing areas for men and boys and for women and girls.

This motion carried with no Nays and one abstention. Paula will convey this to the BC. We thanked the youth subcommittee for their year and a half of very hard work.

## 6 Report on received TAC Summer School site suggestions

No site suggestions have been received. Kathleen resigned as chair of this committee, but agreed to remain on it. The committee will choose a new chair.

## 7 Report on Teacher Resources

Armin has a small list:

Who	What	Detail
Susie Langdon Kass	videos	
Pat O'Brien	records	33 & 45 rpm
Pat O'Brien	books	
Bruce Hamilton	TC minutes	1979 to present, with omissions
Alan Twigg	large archive of recordings & books	

Teachers are encouraged to add to this.

## 8 Report on project to collect past TC minutes and actions

Bruce has made no progress on this.

## New Business

### 9 Selection of new Teachers' Committee Officers

Bruce Herbold/Paula nominated Armin for chair. He was elected unanimously.

Gene/Bruce Herbold nominated Bruce Hamilton for secretary. He was elected unanimously.

Paula/Bruce Hamilton nominated Bruce Herbold for party program coordinator. He was elected unanimously.

### 10 Selection of Party Program Committees

First-named person is convenor. **NOTE:** We chose some people who were not at the meeting. Look to see if you are on a committee.

Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball 2003	due Mar. 1st, 2003	Jo, Bruce Hamilton, Marianna
Pleasanton 2003	due Mar. 15th, 2003	Paula, Coletta, Juliet
Oct / Nov 2003	due Aug. 1st, 2003	Sara, Paula, Bruce Herbold
Valentine's Ball 2004	due Aug. 15th, 2003	Alan, Ellen, Armin
Dec / Jan 2003 / 2004	due Oct. 1st, 2003	Juliet, Susie, Bruce Herbold

Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball 2003	due Mar. 1st, 2003	Jo, Bruce Hamilton, Marianna
Mar / Apr 2004	due Dec. 1st, 2003	Jennifer Kelly, Marianna, Bruce Herbold
May / June 2004	due Feb. 1st, 2004	Alan, Jo, Bruce Herbold

## 11 Fall 2003 Teacher's Workshop

Jo (Asilomar teacher coordinator) reported that Asilomar will probably not hire a teacher from Scotland this year. She will tell us when the slate of teachers is settled. Asilomar is Oct 31–Nov 2, 2003, so the usual time for our workshop would be Nov 8. That is a monthly party date again. We liked having the workshop and party on the same day and town this year (it's exhausting, but it saves travel). If the teacher we pick can stay the extra week, that is our first choice. Second choice is the weekend before Asilomar, and third choice is the Tuesday after. Location is TBD.

## 12 Other new business

### 12.1 Attendance at monthly parties

Monthly parties have been losing money, and there are some reports that teachers haven't been teaching the dances on the program, or haven't been promoting the parties enthusiastically. The BC asks us to think about this and make some suggestions, not necessarily today. **Everyone**, please think about what you, your class and/or the BC can do about this. We suggested a branch-wide survey, possibly in the strathspeyer. It might be a good idea to cast the questions so that they don't assume future monthly parties need to have the same form/structure as now. Also, if people put the survey on the table at class, it will reach people who don't get the 'peyer.

### 12.2 Book 42 Workshop, Take II

We will conduct a workshop on the Book 42 dances at our April meeting. Jo will look into a hall near her RE price and availability. Alan Twigg will organize the workshop proper. **RSVP to Alan if you plan to attend.** Since this is a regular meeting, we don't expect to have to cancel for lack of attendance; but if attendance is very large we may need a different hall. Tell him also if you are willing to teach any dances, and which ones. Nominal timing will be 12:30–1:30 lunch and meeting. 2–5 workshop.

### 12.3 Party Program Questions

Bruce Herbold asks for input from anyone on the following questions.

- He has been putting ball dances on the regular monthly parties, and counting their appearance on ball programs toward their 3-month duration. This makes for more familiar programs at parties, but has resulted in some irregularities, most notably more than the normal number of dances appearing in some months. What do you think of this?
- What dances in the recent books (since 38, say) do you think are keepers?

- Bruce requests suggestions for this year's party programs. He particularly needs dances at the middle levels of difficulty.
- At which monthly party should we begin including dances for beginners? I.e. if there were suitable dances on the September program, would you send your dancers? If not, what about October? Etc. Sara suggested having one or two right away, but reserving a 3-month allocation for them. Thus, run one dance for 3 months, or 3 dances for 1 month each, but use tall 3 months, so it doesn't mess up the rotation of the other dances.

#### **12.4 "Show and Tell"**

Juliet asked what people would think of spending just 30 seconds per person to have us tell others of something we've done or seen that worked particularly well. We liked the idea, but not 2-1/2 hours into the meeting. Not next time either, since that's a workshop, but perhaps the time after that. (Bruce and Armin, remember to put this on the agenda).

#### **13 Date and location for next meetings**

- April 12, 2003, 12:30–1:30 pm for lunch/meeting, Bk 42 workshop 2:00. Location TBD, probably in Atherton.
- June 14, 2003, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) location TBD. We'd like a place in the North Bay. Volunteers?
- September 20, 2003, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) location TBD.

I've sent the meeting dates to Dotty. Tell Armin if you have suggestions for a video.

Adjourned at 4:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton