



---

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.  
**Minutes of the Teachers' Committee Meeting**  
April 12, 2003

---

At the Carriage House in Holbrook-Palmer Park, Atherton, just before a workshop on Book 42 dances. Armin called the meeting to order at 12:14 pm.

**Present:** Ellen Aaron, Coletta & Armin Busse, Juliet Davoren, Jo & Bruce Hamilton, Alex Harvey, Bruce Herbold, Lori Howard, Paula Jacobson, Susie Langdon Kass, Fred Macondray, Kathleen McAdam, Claudette Sigg, Alan Twigg.

**Regrets:** Cathy Bertics, Marianna Harvey, 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 January 11, 2003**

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

### **2 Party Program Committees**

The May/June, Jean Patrick and Kim McGarrity programs are done.

### **3 Youth Guidelines**

The Branch Committee (BC) accepted the guidelines with the wording we proposed at our last meeting. The question arose of how best to distribute them. Copies should be held by teachers and class managers, and all adults should read them (since they may encounter children in their classes or at parties). The BC is considering how best to distribute *all* its materials, and will take this item on as well. Many ideas were proposed (e.g. mailing, on tables at dances, web page). Paula said she has a clear idea of what is needed, and will take it from here.

### **4 Selection of Summer School Committee Chair**

At our previous meeting Kathleen retired as chair of this committee, whose task to find a location for some future TAC summer school. No one has volunteered to take over. **Moved** (Bruce Hamilton/Paula) that we thank this committee, disband it, and form a new one when circumstances warrant. **Carried.** Kathleen pointed out that the committee in one form or another has been working for five years!

## 5 Fall 2003 Teachers Workshop

We generally ask one of the Asilomar visiting teachers to stay and give a workshop the weekend before or after, or occasionally the Tuesday after. Jo reported that Mel Briscoe and Vicky Goodloe are possible choices for this year, and she recommends Vicky. She notes that both teachers have day jobs and may not be able to stay a week. We authorized her to ask Vicky; if no date can be worked out with her, to ask Mel; if no date can be worked out with him, to see if some other west coast branch is having a workshop in the Fall and to see if we can hire their teacher before or after that event. She will also take the Asilomar committee's temperature about the possibility/desirability of a teachers' workshop at Asilomar (though it was noted that we're all tired there, and that such a workshop is tough for people not attending the weekend).

## 6 Report on Teacher Resources

Armin has received no news of resources. Susie cannot find two videos which should be in her *{is it actually hers?}* collection: "First Lady of the Dance" and "Won't You Join the Dance."

**Everyone**, please look to see if you are holding her copy of either of these.

There was discussion of the best way to ask members to do things (as in this case). People tend to read minutes in "read" mode rather than "do" mode, or else they tend not to read minutes; hence sending requests in separate emails is better. On the other hand, sending a separate email for each request trains people that their minutes are unimportant, and your secretary feels like a spammer if he sends many small messages (plus, every message means printing, folding, stuffing, addressing, stamping and mailing six letters so we don't disenfranchise the folks who don't get email). There being no consensus in our short discussion, your secretary will put requests in the minutes. If you want this changed, ask me or Armin to add it to a future agenda.

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

Bruce Hamilton is doing this on his own, as a rainy day project. (Since it's raining today, he's actually making some progress). Fred volunteered to supply minutes that Bruce may be missing.

## New Business

### 8 Attendance at Monthly Parties

The BC had previously asked us to think about ways to improve attendance at monthly parties. Susie reported that the SF class's system works: they teach monthly party dances in every class but the one right after a party, and the one before it is virtually a party preview. They also promote the parties. Livermore does a similar thing. Lori said it can be hard to match your teaching progression for figures to the programs. Various classes reported how their dancers are affected by the distance to a party: for some it's a big deal, and for others it's almost unimportant. Bruce Herbold pointed out a 2-way feedback between dancers attending parties and their teacher teaching the dances.

The last two monthly parties were packed. We guessed this was in part because we had been paying attention to the issue. We decided we were sufficiently sensitized for now, and would take this off the agenda until the Fall. *Put it on the Sept. agenda.*

## 9 Party Program Questions

Bruce Herbold had previously asked for suggestions for monthly party programs. He's received about 3 responses and would like more.

## 10 Hambo at Formal Balls

Armin read a letter Pro, and a letter Con, the playing and dancing of the Hambo at formal SCD balls. **Moved** (Ellen/Jo) that we pass the letter to the Asilomar committee (i.e. hosts of our next formal ball) and table this until our next meeting. **Carried.** *Put it on the agenda.*

## 11 Other new business

### 11.1 RSCDS Leaflets

Paula showed us a handsome book which HQ has just issued, of the Leaflet dances in large format with tunes. Don't know whether it's in the bookstore yet.

### 11.2 Teachers' Page on Branch Web Site

Armin plans to work on this. He has material, but is happy to accept more: if **you** have something you think belongs there, send it to him.

### 11.3 Children's Ball

Kathleen thanks those who contributed. They had 93 dancers, age 7–18, and 130 spectators.

### 11.4 Yellow Brochure

Susie is revising the yellow brochure. **Everyone**, get your info to her by Saturday, April 19.

### 11.5 "Show and Tell"

Juliet had previously suggested a round-robin at which everyone who wanted spend 30 seconds describing some teaching method/experience that worked. She reports that this went very well at the last meeting. *Remember to put this on the agenda.*

## 12 Date and location for next meetings

- June 14, 2003, 3:00 pm (video at 2:30). At Pat O'Brien's if she consents, otherwise at Kathleen's. The location will be on the agenda. **Note change of time**, to make it easier to get from the Campbell Games and to the Beginners' Ball.
- September 20, 2003, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) location TBD.
- January 10, 2004, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) location TBD.

Your secretary had polled the membership, asking whether we wanted to move the June meeting away from the Campbell Games date. 2 people asked to move it, 2 people replied but made no request, and 56 people did not reply. We interpreted this to mean there was *not* a push to change the meeting date, so we didn't change it.

Bruce Hamilton asked about having an occasional Sunday meeting, for those who consistently can't make Saturday. The consensus was that Saturdays generally suit more people, but making an occasional exception is a good idea. The June meeting is too near to change. **Everyone**, tell me whether it would be OK to move the September meeting to September 21. The January meeting is a big one, so we will leave that alone, but if we don't change the September meeting, we will probably hold our April 2004 meeting on a Sunday.

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

(Alan/Ellen) **Adjourned** at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton