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SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.  
**Minutes of the Teachers' Committee Meeting**  
September 20, 2003

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At Juliet Davoren's house. We watched "Take Your Partners." Armin called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

**Present:** Gene Bissell, Armin Busse, Juliet Davoren, Bruce Hamilton, Alex and Marianna Harvey, Bruce Herbold, Paula Jacobson, Susie Langdon Kass, Fred Macondray, Kathleen McAdam, Claudette Sigg, Alan Twigg.

**Regrets:** Ellen Aaron, Cathy Bertics, Coletta Busse, Jo Hamilton, Jennifer Kelly, Pat O'Brien and Lin Pettengill. 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 June 14, 2003

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

### 2 Teachers Resources

Several people mentioned having resources and forgetting to tell Armin about them. Please consider yourself reminded.

### 3 Teachers Web Page

Armin showed us the draft version, which is accessible via <http://www.rscds-sf.org/teachers/> (without the "<>"). There was no link from the branch web page (<http://www.rscds-sf.org/>) while this was under development. We agreed that it's ready for general viewing, and suggested a link from "Teachers' Pages." The RSCDS web page (just to get all the links in one place) is <http://www.rscds.org/>. A password is required to enter the Members' Area. I can't list it here because we post these minutes on the web page. Call me or the branch secretary.

There was a question about where to put the links for some documents, such as the guidelines for making party programs [which I could not find. -bh]. We observed that there is no harm in linking to a document from more than one place; we just don't want to have more than one version of any given document. **Armin** will work this out with the webmaster.

There was discussion of how to protect people's personal information. We don't put full names, addresses or telephone numbers in the Agenda. It just says, e.g. "09/20/03, Davoren, Sunnyvale" and people have to look it up (it's also in the agenda we mail out). Contact info on the page can be protected from spammers by presenting it as a picture; though Paula pointed out that branch vol-

unteers' info has been posted in the clear for a long time, with no trouble reported. At present, very few teachers have contact info on this page, so they can work with Armin.

**Everyone**, please send comments about the Teachers web page to Armin.

**Side Note:** Juliet reported that Howard Leach died on August 28. We don't know how Carol is doing. Paula mentioned that Howard was her first teacher.

#### **4 Fall 2003 Teachers Workshop**

Mel Briscoe is giving a (sit-down) session on learning styles. It will be at Asilomar on November 1, 2:30–3:30 pm. We don't yet know which room.

#### **5 Report on project to collect past TC minutes and actions**

Bruce still needs helpers to check his work. He'll try to work this in at other events as opportunities present themselves. This project is otherwise complete, and won't appear in future meetings. The list will go on the Teachers web page and will be kept up-to-date.

#### **6 Book 44**

Background: headquarters previously sent for review dances that are being considered for Book 44. These went to various branches, including ours. It was on short notice, but the Lafayette class and SSCOTS (a group of social dancers that meets monthly in Santa Cruz) danced through them and sent their reviews to Witsie, who forwarded them to HQ. [Other groups may also have danced them. These are the only ones represented at this meeting. -bh]

#### **7 Distribution of Youth Guidelines**

Kathleen handed these out. For those pages containing forms that may need to be sent in, you are expected to copy the form and send in the copy. The enrollment form for children who join the branch goes to the Membership Coordinator (and subsequently to the Insurance Coordinator), but children's names are not printed in the directory.


#### **8 Member's Handbook**

The handbook is on hold. The committee is looking for an editor to take it over and shape it to the Branch Committee's specifications. The likely deadline is January, but can be whatever it takes.

**Everyone**, if you know of someone who would be interested in this project, please tell Paula Jacobson. Susie will send copies to anyone interested in seeing the book in its current form.

## **New Business**

#### **9 TAC Area Representative's report**

Bruce Hamilton read highlights from his report (attached).  One thing of note [which I forgot to mention in the meeting] is that they are starting to make use of their web page. The "Summer School" and "AGM" links are out of date as usual, but many other links are making a real effort to add value. Check it out at <<http://tac-rscds.org/>>. Bruce said that TAC was doing good work, as

always, but seemed to lack direction. He hopes to help with the direction through his service on their Strategic Planning Committee, but was skeptical about earning his subsidy for attending the AGM as Area Representative, and does not plan to run for the office again.

We discussed the value of sending a representative to the AGM. Voting to approve fifteen reports does not bring \$285 in value to the Branch nor to the TAC. But our relationship with the TAC is still important and worthwhile. That relationship exists mostly in person-to-person connections, and those are kept healthy by attendance at summer school and the AGM. Bruce pointed out that next year's AGM is in connection with summer school, and if we appoint a representative who plans to attend both, we get more schmoozing per dollar than we did this year.

Juliet suggested that we as a committee do not have a clear idea of what we want our representative to do: what to take to the TAC, and what to bring back. If we gave clearer direction, we would likely get better results. We'll put this on the agenda for our next meeting. **Everyone**, please think about this between now and then. If you want to bounce ideas off Bruce (Hamilton), he's available.

[This was a great discussion, and I let myself get wrapped up in it rather than take good notes. Those attending, please make corrections or additions as you think necessary. -bh]

### **Items added at the meeting:**

#### **9.1 Book 43**

Alan Twigg suggested holding a workshop on the new book dances, as we did last year. Bruce Herbold/Gene **Moved** that we authorize Alan to choose a hall and time to do that. Alan said that because of his schedule, this wouldn't happen until January. It will probably be at Holbrook-Palmer park in Atherton again. **Carried**. Fred Macondray mentioned that he learned the dances at St. Andrews, and volunteered to teach them. Gene Bissell has a set of notes on the dances. [I called Andrew McConnell, the author of those notes. He's willing to have them handed out, but not to have them posted on our web site. So I'm mailing them with these minutes, but not making them *part of* the minutes, so they won't get posted. -bh]

#### **9.2 New RSCDS Dances**

Bruce Herbold asked for suggestions for RSCDS dances from recent books to include on party programs. **Everyone**, if you know of good ones (or really bad ones) please tell him.

#### **9.3 New John Drewry Book**

Armin was given a copy of a new John Drewry book and asked "to distribute it among the teachers." There was discussion about what that might mean. We decided it's a Teachers' Resource, and he'll list it on the web page.

#### **9.4 Children's Packet**

Kathleen has a copy of the RSCDS packet for teaching children SCD in schools. It will also go in the resource list.

## 10 Selection of Teacher Trainer

At our previous meeting we asked people to think about whether they would like to tutor candidates next year, and to tell us at this meeting. Susie reported that Ron Wallace said he would do it if no one else stepped forward. Fred Macondray said he is interested in sharing the job with someone. Bruce Herbold and Alan Twhigg said they were willing but not eager to do it.

There followed a discussion of the pros and cons of expertise versus new blood, and versus developing depth for the branch in this area. We want all three of those things. Given that we can't have them, those speaking leaned in favor of having a different tutor than the last several times. We agreed informally that to say the following in these minutes: We encourage prospective tutors, and ask them to send a statement of qualifications to the secretary by December 15, 2003.

## 11 Date and location for next meetings

- January 10, 2004, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) at Kathleen McAdam's.
- April 18, 2004, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) at Bruce Herbold's. **Note that this is a Sunday**; this is to accommodate requests not to have all our meetings on Saturdays. **Note also that Bruce has cats.** If you plan to attend and are allergic to cats, let the secretary know and we'll pick a different location.
- June 19, 2004, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) location TBD.

The meeting Adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton