



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.
Minutes of the Teachers' Committee Meeting
January 10, 2004

At Bruce & Jo Hamilton's house. We watched the Book 32 video. Armin called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm.

Present: Armin Busse, Juliet Davoren, Sara Gratiot, Bruce & Jo Hamilton, Alex Harvey, Bruce Herbold, Coletta Hill, Paula Jacobson, Susie Langdon Kass, Fred Macondray, Pat O'Brien, Alan Twhigg.

Regrets: Cathy Bertics, Gene Bissell, Rebecca Davis, Emily Evans, John & Jennifer Kelly, Elsie Robertson, Claudette Sigg, 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 (especially when we have to change venue on short notice!).

It was asked whether Dwayne and Mary McQuilliams are on the list. The secretary checked: they were not, wanted to be, and now are.

Old Business

1 Minutes of meeting September 20, 2003

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

2 Party Program Committees

Programs are done through March/April 2004. May/June needs to be done by Feb 1.

3 Teachers Resources

Juliet sent Armin a long list, which he will add to the web page. We recognized that this page is itself becoming quite a resource, and we discussed giving it some sort of search capability. We took no action on this; Armin will explore it in his copious free time.

We agreed that we want an email reflector: an address to which messages can be sent, which will then forward them to all teachers. There are social and technical issues involved here, so a sub-committee of **Armin Busse** and **Bruce Hamilton** was formed to look into it.

4 Teachers Web Page

We want to change the name of the "Resources" section, since it suggests human resources to some. "Stuff" was the biggest vote-getter. We want to add Sheena & Carolyn's article on the timing of beginner-friendly dances at monthly parties. **Coletta** will get this. We also want to put up

the method we set in 1987 for choosing a teacher trainer. If you have soft copy please send it to the secretary; otherwise he'll scan it in. There was a request that titles of documents be informative. We discussed having party program committees listed — on this page, on the Branch page, or not at all. I think we left it that the Monthly Party Programming Continuity Person, listed on the branch page under “volunteers,” provided a contact point for comments by members, and **Armin** will list the committees on the teachers' page to remind us.

5 Fall 2003 Teachers' Workshop

Bruce Hamilton recapped Mel Briscoe's class at Asilomar. Mel's handout from the workshop is attached; he requested that it *not* be posted on a web page anywhere.

We discussed the pros and cons of having a teacher's workshop at Asilomar. These are often useful to non-teachers as well (e.g. people thinking of teaching), and it's easy to attend when on campus like that. The flip side is that the format only allows for an hour, it's harder to attend for everyone who isn't at Asilomar, it gives the Asilomar committee yet another constraint, it can feel exclusive, and it adds to the staff teaching load.

There was a suggestion to recommend (or ask the Branch Committee to recommend) a teachers' workshop at future Asilomar weekends. **Moved** (Bruce Herbold/Bruce Hamilton) to table this question until the next meeting. **Passed.**

6 Branch Handbook

Alan is editing this and will give it to the Branch Committee when it's done. We noted that, while input from teachers is welcome, this is not TC business. It will not appear on future agendas.

New Business

7 Selection of officers

- Armin is willing to continue as Chair, and was elected by acclamation.
- Bruce Hamilton is willing to continue as Secretary, and was elected by acclamation. The committee praised the quality of the minutes. [Thank you!]
- Bruce Herbold is willing to continue as Monthly Party Program Continuity person, and was elected by acclamation.

We discussed continuity of *non-party* programs, i.e. balls, particularly with respect to how directions for non-RSCDS dances are disseminated. Currently, committee chairs do it in their own ways. The Branch Committee has decided that directions will be put on the Branch web page (in some html font, as verbatim as possible, without diagrams). Some teachers don't like teaching from that, and don't have enough money or lead time to buy the necessary books. This is old territory, and the chair moved us on to the next agenda item.

8 TAC Area Representative

Alan Twigg is already planning to attend this year's AGM, and was elected by acclamation. We were supposed to decide at this meeting what we wanted our representative to do — to take to

meetings and to bring back. None of us had prepared this, so we did not discuss it, but we suggested that figuring it out might be part of the representative's job. Alan welcomes all input.

The representative's subsidy is currently "up to a maximum of 50% of the registration and 50% of the lowest-cost available round-trip commercial air fare" [July 17, 1988]. We talked of raising this, so that no one who wants to be area representative is inhibited by the cost of the trip. While we agreed with this idea, a larger subsidy felt uncomfortably like a perk. We decided to note in these minutes that if someone wants to be TAC area representative and does not have enough money to attend the AGM, a larger subsidy is surely available upon request.

9 Selection of Monthly Party Program Committees

Bruce Herbold had asked for volunteers beforehand. This accommodated people not at the meeting, allowed him to do some preliminary groupings, and speeded up the process considerably. The committees are as follows (the first-named person is convenor).

Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball 2004	due Mar. 1st, 2004	Jo Hamilton, Cathy Bertics, Pat O'Brien
Jean Patrick Memorial Ball 2004	due Mar. 15th, 2004	Alan Twigg, Jennifer Kelly, Armin Busse
Oct / Nov 2004	due Aug. 1st, 2004	Bruce Herbold, Sara Gratiot, Jo Hamilton
Valentine's Ball 2005	due Aug. 15th, 2004	Coletta Hill, Paula Jacobson, Juliet Davoren
Dec / Jan 2003 / 2005	due Oct. 1st, 2004	Bruce Herbold, Alan Twigg, Rebecca Davis
Mar / Apr 2005	due Dec. 1st, 2004	Bruce Herbold, Coletta Hill, Lin Pettengill
May / June 2005	due Feb. 1st, 2005	Bruce Herbold, Juliet Davoren, Susie Langdon Kass

Some people wanted to program parties which their class would be hosting, and wondered what the hosting assignments were. That is a sensible question, but our committees are chosen before the class hosting assignments. What you **can** do, once you know which party you're programming, is to ask the Monthly Parties Venues/Scheduling Coordinator, listed on the branch web page (currently Sandra Fritts, sl.powell@prodigy.net).

10 Selection of Teacher Trainer

Alan Twigg said that the statement in the September meeting's minutes that he and Bruce Herbold were "willing but not eager" was a little strong; but in any case, Alan's work commitments don't permit him to take on the job.

In those same minutes we asked that prospective tutors submit their qualifications by last December 15; no one did. Fred Macondray gave his qualifications verbally at the meeting. He was still interested in sharing the class with someone, but did not yet know who.

No one had been approached by a dancer or prelim about taking the class. It was noted that we have virtually no classes wanting a teacher and several sharing teachers. A straw vote showed that about half those present had taken their exams outside their home branch; of course, it costs more money (but less time) to attend those schools.

Faced with lukewarm interest in teaching the class, little interest in taking it, no current need for new teachers, and candidate classes available at TAC, St. Andrews and North Carolina, it was **moved** (Bruce Herbold/Bruce Hamilton) that we advise the Branch Committee that we do not intend to offer a teacher training class in 2004-2005. The Teachers' Committee encourages the Branch Committee to make available some measure of support to any branch member who wants to take a teacher training class somewhere else. Yes-11. No-2. **Passed.**

Several members of the committee are willing to help candidates prepare for going to a candidate class. Bruce and Jo have done this in the past. Anyone interested in receiving such preparation should talk to Fred Macondray.

11 Book 43 Workshop

Alan Twigg is coordinating this. Fred Macondray and other volunteers will be teaching it. We picked March 20, 2-5 pm as our 1st choice and February 28 as 2nd (and the respective Sundays as 3rd and 4th choice). **Jo Hamilton** has reserved the Carriage House in Atherton on February 28 from 1-5 pm.

12 Teachers' Workshop

Since the 2004 Asilomar staff has not been chosen yet, we tabled this until our next meeting.

13 Date and location for next meetings

- April 18, 2004, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) at Bruce Herbold's. **This is a Sunday.** Note also that there will be cat fur (black and white, so you can't win :-).
- June 19, 2004, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30), location TBD (we'll ask Kathleen if she wants to host).
- September 18, 2004, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) at Paula Jacobson's. A teachers' dance afterward: bring something you'd like to teach (and music for it if you can). There will be a small fee to cover the cost of the Sequel Grange hall.

14 Other Business

14.1 Dance interpretations

We made the following choices, which we recommend for upcoming dances:

- **Arthur's Seat** bars 31-31: individual petronella turns.
- **Blue Mess Jacket** bar 4: 2s get well down the set by this point, and 1s cross while 2s turn around. It can also be done with 1s crossing on bar 3 and turning to face up on bar 4.
- **Mrs. Hamilton of Wishaw**, end of reels of 3: as in the TAC Notes — 1s hold on with right hand and half-turn to face down.

14.2 Putting One's Own Dances on Party Programs

The list of TC past actions records that we forbade this on July 17, 1988, to avoid the appearance of impropriety. It fails to note that we repealed that decision on February 27, 1999. The list has been revised, and the Party Program Coordinator notified.

14.3 Documents Available

- Applications for St. Andrews are available (but not on the RSCDS web site!). Your secretary has one, but no idea where to get more if not the web site. The fortnights are 7/18-8/1 and 8/1-15.
- The November RSCDS Youth Committee newsletter is available, from Kathleen McAdam and <<http://www.rscds.org/youth/index.html>>.
- Information about a medal test for young dancers is available from Kathleen.

14.4 Videos Lost

First Lady of the Dance and *Take Your Partners* are missing again. If you know where they are, tell Susie.

14.5 Youth Weekend

There will be another one in WA on May 14, 15 and 16. Fred DeMarse will be one of the teachers, with Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and Duncan MacKenzie. See <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~scottish/YWW/home.html>.

The meeting Adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton