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SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH. INC.

## Minutes of Teachers' Committee Meeting

October 1, 2005

At the home of Alex and Marianna Harvey. Marianna served delicious refreshments, including some great guacamole (and refilled it at the break!). Armin Busse called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

**Present:** Cathy Bertics, Armin Busse, Patti Cobb, Juliet Davoren, Bruce Hamilton, Alex and Marianna Harvey, Bruce Herbold, Paula Jacobson, Susie Langdon Kass, Bob McMurtry, Alan Twigg.

**Regrets:** Ellen Aaron, Kathy Allen, Rebecca Davis, Sara Gratiot, Jo Hamilton, Coletta Hill, Lori Howard, Carolyn Hunt, Fred Macondray, Kathleen McAdam, David Newitt, Pat O'Brien, Lin Pettengill, Sandee Schultz, Tim Wilson, Tom Winter.

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 July 16, 2005

**Moved** (Alan, Marianna) that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as distributed. **Passed.**

#### 1.5 *Not on the agenda:* Teachers reception at Asilomar

The new exam structure blurs the definition of "teacher," and makes it hard to tell whom to invite to the reception. We **moved** (Bruce Herbold/Juliet) to recommend to the BC that successful completion of any unit of the teacher's exam entitle a person to an invitation to the teachers reception at Asilomar.

#### 2. Report on Party Program Committees

Bruce Herbold reported that the Valentine's ball, Oct/Nov and Dec/Jan programs are complete.

He's had questions about the meaning of the B, I and A ratings of dances. Also, the branch guidelines don't say how to treat a dance with a B/I or I/A rating — what rating to count it as. Bruce is happy to discuss those questions with anyone. We did not take any action on those questions.

#### 3. Report on teachers' web page

As of last night, if you ask to print the page you get the whole contents, but the agenda is on a separate page. This satisfies the people who want the agenda in a readable form, and also those who expect the whole page to get printed when they say "print." Tell Armin if you notice any problems.

#### 4. Tutor training

Dwayne was out of town, and had not sent a report. There were no volunteers to pick up this task. We wanted this to happen in spring of this year, so it would be between

candidate class years. We think it's too late now to make this work. Bruce Herbold and Alan (previous candidate class teachers) will not feel deprived if this workshop does not occur next spring.

**Moved** (Patti/Bruce Herbold) that we shelve this, and try again for Spring 2008.

**Passed.** Your **chair** and **secretary** will put this on an upcoming agenda.

#### 5. Email reflector

There have been no difficulties. We expressed our thanks to Don Pettengill.

#### 6. Fall 2005 workshop

The workshop is happening on Nov 5, with Mary Murray teaching, either at the old or the new Veteran's Hall in Lafayette. Thanks to Dwayne and Kathleen for pulling this together. **Cathy** will send out info soon. The price is lower if you register by October 17. If there are topics you want Mary to cover, tell Kathleen McAdam.

#### 6.5 *Not on the agenda: Liaison with Branch Committee*

The confusion with the scheduling of this meeting, and the presence now of several BC members on the TC made us realize that our past practice of depending on whoever happened to be at a meeting serving as liaison may not work in the future. **Moved** (Juliet/Patti) that we appoint a TC member to serve as liaison to the BC. This office will begin with our next election of officers, and the term will be the same as that of other officers. **Passed.**

#### 7. Old records project

There has been no progress on this. Paula has custody of a record player (which belongs to the branch) and will lend it to any volunteers. The tasks are: catalogue the tracks, record each onto a computer file, clean up pops and scratches, and burn them to CD. We noted that the cataloguing and recording can be done simultaneously, by different people. The **secretary** will put a note in the R&S by tonight's deadline.

#### 8. New Adjudication standards for Pleasanton

Kathleen was out of town, so Cathy reported. This topic began because Alastair Brown instigated some changes for the teams participating on the stages at the 2004 Pleasanton highland games and did not communicate those to all teachers at the same time. Also, there was a perception that teams were allocated significantly unequal amounts of stage time. In hopes of making things go more smoothly in 2005, we appointed Kathleen to be our liaison with Alastair. This item has her name on it for that reason, but it affects everyone who presented a team or demonstration, or ran audience participation dancing. We think it is TC business because of the number of teachers involved in those activities, and because there are side effects on people taking up SCD because of the games, and on relationships between classes, between teams, and between classes and teams.

Things were rough again this year. We did not discuss that; instead we tried to figure out what our role is in relation to the various other parties, and what we can do in that role that will improve matters. Alastair is Celtic Heritage Chairman (responsible for country dancing, fiddling and harping), and is thus in charge of the adjudications and the two stages. He is appointed by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco (CC), not the Branch Committee. The Branch rents the stages to the CC, and is responsible for many ticket sales, but does not contribute any money. It "sponsors" the country dancing, but we're not sure what that means. The BC is also working on making things go more

smoothly from their point of view. The TC advises the BC.

We believe that the things we do (and things the branch does generally) at the Games helps get people up dancing, inspires people who are already dancers, and gives teams/classes a chance to get their dancing adjudicated. It preserves and propagates an important part of Scottish culture, and it sells tickets (Susie observed that we could quantify this by asking all the teams and stage volunteers how many tickets they bought/got).

And we need several things from the games, and from the organizer. Examples are: timely, broad and uniform communication; a sense of even-handedness; and sensitivity to the different groups' different needs.

It was **moved** (Bruce Herbold/Susie) that the TC write a brief letter addressed to the CC, with copies to the BC and the various liaisons between the CC and the branch. The letter will specify what we bring to the Games, and what we need in order to do that. We will send the letter to the BC, to use as they think best. **Passed.**

Your secretary took this on. I told the meeting that I plan to send a note to the email reflector inviting people to join the discussion, and to draft the letter as a joint effort with the people who replied. I don't want to start a precedent of holding discussions on the reflector. Those at the meeting approved the plan.

## **New Business**

### **9. Assessment of adjudications and performances**

We agreed that we had covered this in the previous item

### **10. Repertoire list**

If the last one was made in 1997, as we think, it's time to make another one. Bruce Herbold will send Greg Reznick a list of dances done in the past, for the Branch web page. Bruce (convener), Paula and Alan volunteered to serve on a committee to revise the list of "core" dances. If you are interested in serving on the committee, let Bruce know.

### **11. Database for ball program writeups**

Alan has started on this, and has a DB from Mairi Hand as a starting point. If you have dance writeups that would be useful to Alan, send them to him.

### **12. Encores at parties and balls**

Susie brought a writeup for vetting by the committee, as requested. We liked it very much, made small changes, and authorized her to send it to the Strathspeyper.

### **13. TAC area representative's report**

Alan's report is enclosed separately.

#### **13.5 Not on the agenda: Teachers' retreat**

Bruce Herbold is working on a weekend retreat for recent candidates, and anyone else interested, at Alpine Lodge next February. He plans something along the lines of attendee-led workshops, and not to hire a hotshot visiting teacher. If you're interested, tell Bruce.

### **14. Date and Location for next meetings**

- January 21, 2006. Video at 1:30, meeting at 2:00, At Pat O'Brien's.
- April 8, 2006. Video at 1:30, meeting at 2:00, at Kathleen McAdam's, if she's willing.

**Note:** date changed from April 22 to avoid a conflict with the Sacramento workshop.

- July 9, 2006. Video at 1:30, meeting at 2:00, place TBD. **Note:** this is a Sunday — an attempt to accommodate people who can't attend on Saturday.

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton