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SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH. INC.

## Minutes of Teachers' Committee Meeting

January 21, 2006

At the home of Pat and Walter O'Brien. We watched the video of the injury-prevention workshop with Linda Speedie. Armin Busse called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

**Present:** Kathy Allen, Armin Busse, Patti Cobb, Juliet Davoren, Bruce Hamilton, Alex and Marianna Harvey, Bruce Herbold, Coletta Hill, Paula Jacobson, Susie Langdon Kass, Kathleen McAdam, Pat O'Brien, Alan Twigg, Larry Wakeman and Tim Wilson.

**Regrets:** Ellen Aaron, Cathy Bertics, Gene Bissell, Rebecca Davis, Fred deMarse, Gail Erwin, Sandra Fritts, Sara Gratiot, Jo Hamilton, Linda Henderson, Coletta Hill (who came anyway), Lori Howard, Sheena MacQueen, Jim Passage, Lin Pettengill and Sandee Schultz.

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.

### Procedural Issue

#### 1. Clarify what actions a non-voting member is allowed to perform

We agreed that prelim candidates are non-voting members of the TC, but disagreed about whether Robert's Rules gives the right to propose motions to members or voting members. We decided that it didn't matter: we wanted to enfranchise our members as much as possible. Moved (Alan, Bruce Hamilton) that we allow preliminary pass members to make and second motions. Passed. We noted that the new exam structure makes the notion of a "Prelim" ambiguous. We decided we had dealt with this in a previous meeting, and consider anyone who has completed one of the units toward the certificate a Prelim. *[Not quite. At our October 1, 2005 meeting we decided "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." We should deal with this more fully at our next meeting.]*

### Old Business

#### 2. Minutes of meeting October 1, 2005

Moved (Patti, Larry (exercising their newly-granted rights :-)) that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as distributed. **Passed.**

#### 3. Report on Party Program Committees

Bruce Herbold reported that the March/April programs are complete, and the May/June programs will be done very soon.

#### 4. Old records project

Paula reported that no one has volunteered to help, and thus there has been no progress. 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 volunteers need not be

teachers, so **Coletta** and **Paula** will put a note in the R&S. In addition, **every-one** please see if you can volunteer for some part of this task.

#### 5. Pleasanton feedback letter

Patti read a draft of a letter stating the TC's goals for the Branch usage of the Celtic Heritage Area at the Pleasanton Games. The text is preliminary, but there was no disagreement with its tenor or contents. Larry reported that the BC Liaison to the Pleasanton Games is working on publishing a timeline and procedures with the Caledonian club representative for participation in the games. We noted that until our letter is finished there is no assurance that the BC's procedures will achieve the TC's goals, so there is some urgency in finishing it.

The **secretary** will notify the previous volunteers on this project, and also re-ask **everyone**: if you have input to this (in terms of what results you want next year, not what you didn't like about last year), please tell Patti. **Moved** (Bruce Herbold, Marianna) that we delegate authority to a subcommittee of volunteers to write this letter and submit it to the BC, without review by us, by February 25. **Passed**.

#### 6. Fall 2005 teachers workshop

Kathleen's report is attached. We thanked Kathleen for hosting the teacher and organizing the workshop.

#### 7. Repertoire list

No progress. Bruce Herbold will report at the next meeting. If **you** have suggestions for good dances published since 1998, tell Bruce, Paula or Alan.

#### 8. Database of ball program writeups

Alan reported that this has proved useful already, for the Valentine's ball. Alan is still accepting dance writeups. They must be in electronic form, preferably some widely-understood format.

### New Business

#### 9. Select officers

Armin agreed to be president again, and was elected unanimously. Bruce Hamilton reported that new responsibilities, coupled with reduced office facilities, require him to drop some tasks, and this is one. There were no volunteers for this office, so this will appear on the next meeting's agenda. Bruce Herbold agreed to be monthly party program coordinator again, and was elected unanimously.

The committee thanked all the officers for their past work.

#### 10. Select TAC representative

Alan has served two terms, so another representative must be chosen. There was disagreement about whether the value of sending a representative is worth the subsidy (50% of registration and 50% of lowest available airfare). We decided to continue sending a representative. Marianna volunteered, and was chosen unanimously. We thanked Alan for his past work.

#### 11. Select Branch Committee liaison

Kathy Allen, Sandra Fritts and Larry Wakeman, the three who are members of both committees, have agreed to share the task.

## 12. Select party program committees

We decided to experiment with a ball continuity person, to carry ideas/decisions/etc between ball committees, and to be responsible for committees' adhering to the ball guidelines. Alan Twigg agreed to serve in this informal capacity.

Event	Program due	Committee
Kim McGarrity ball	March 1	Alan Twigg, Patti Cobb, Bob McMurtry
Jean Patrick ball	March 15	Alan Twigg, Lin Pettengill, Coletta Hill
Oct/Nov parties	August 1	Bruce Herbold, Tim Wilson, Pat O'Brien
Valentine's ball	August 15	Alan, Bruce Hamilton, Armin Busse
Dec/Jan parties	October 1	Bruce Herbold, Susie Langdon Kass, Patti Cobb
Mar/Apr parties	December 1	Bruce Herbold, Larry Wakeman, Marianna Harvey
May/Jun parties	February 1, 2007	Bruce Herbold, Juliet Davoren, Paula Jacobson

## 13. Policy RE beginner's monthly party coupons

This item came up because these coupons (available on the Teacher's web page) were being used very differently: some teachers give only one coupon to a person, some give coupons for only a year, some without restriction, etc. The coupons were originally set up by the BC to encourage beginners to go to parties, their use to be at the teacher's discretion. We noted many reasons why a beginner might need encouragement: shy, lives far from a party, doesn't know many dances, etc. There was wide agreement that we want to use these liberally, as long as they are encouraging beginners to go to parties. We did not see a need for a uniform policy, and did not set one.

## 14. Choose organizer for Fall 2006 teachers workshop

Coletta volunteered to organize this. The Asilomar teaching staff has not been chosen yet.

## Other Business

### 15. Suggest dances for recording

Paula plans to produce a recording, with her son as engineer and a band TBD. She asks **everyone** to recommend dances you like, for which there are no good recordings.

#### 15a. Responsibility of people recommending candidates

Kathleen reported on her recollections of the responsibility Miss Milligan said fell to a teacher writing a letter of recommendation. Attached. **Armin** and **Paula** will work with Kathleen to put her recollections together with the RSCDS recommendation form on the Teachers Page.

#### 15b. Written exams

Alan pointed out that the written exam (Unit 1) is now supposed to happen 6 months before the teaching exam. If someone is going to Summer School, they need to sit the exam soon (see, e.g. [www.rscds.org/members/exam-structure-explanatory-note.pdf](http://www.rscds.org/members/exam-structure-explanatory-note.pdf)/download). **Prelims**, if you want to take this exam, tell Armin.

This led to a discussion of the timetable for this branch conducting exams. Before the last set of exams we had a chicken-and-egg problem, where we decided not to hold exams because no one said they wanted to take them, and no one spoke up because we hadn't decided to hold them. Our way out of this is to choose the trainer in January no matter what, then publicize the choice and ask for candidates in the spring. We should be doing that at this meeting; your chair and secretary dropped the ball — sorry. So we will choose the trainer at our April meeting.

It was proposed that our class starting in October might offer only Unit 5, so we would not be starting people on the path, only continuing current prelims. We do currently have 12 prelims, but we didn't like the general idea of letting the pipe empty.

We were supposed to conduct an evaluation of the candidate class, but did not do that. Those at the meeting agreed that it was very likely that an evaluation would have concluded that Bruce and Alan did well enough to have the right of first refusal to do the next two classes. They have not decided whether they want to run the class. If they do not, the job will be open. If **you** want to be considered for the job, tell Armin by the end of March. Also, **everyone** talk with your promising dancers, and tell Armin by the end of March of dancers who want to take the class.

#### 16. Date and Location for next meetings

- April 8, 2006. Video at 1:30, meeting at 2:00, at Kathleen McAdam's. 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, at Kathy Allen's. **Note:** this is a Sunday — an attempt to accommodate people who can't attend on Saturday.
- September 23, 2006, at the Harveys'. **Note:** this date is tentative; speak up if you have a conflict.

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton