



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH. INC.

Minutes of the Teachers' Committee Meeting
Saturday, April 08, 2006
at Kathleen's, Lafayette

Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm by Armin.

Attendees: Kathy Allen, Cathy Bertics, Armin Busse, Gail Erwin, Alex Harvey, Marianna Harvey, Linda Henderson, Bruce Herbold, Susie Langdon-Kass, Kathleen McAdam, Sandee Schultz, Alan Twigg, Larry Wakeman

Guest: John Taylor

Apologies: Patti Cobb, Juliette Davoran, Fred DeMarse, Sandra Fritz, Bruce Hamilton, Jo Hamilton, Coletta Hill, Paula Jacobson, Sheena McQueen, Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace

Old Business

1. Agenda

Read and approved.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes 01/21/2006 corrected (updated) as follows:

15B.

Written exam will be held on 3 dates. Candidates must pass exam before taking Units 2 and 3. Exams planned for February, May, October, 2006.

New candidates for preliminary exam should contact Armin. Alan reported that more info can be obtained from David Norman-Harris as needed.

Moved to approve minutes as amended. (Bruce Herbold, Marianna) Passed.

3. Party program Committees

Bruce reported that programs are finished through June 2007. Asilomar Ball and Jean Patrick Ball programs are also finished.

4. Old Records Proposal

Reported that no progress is being made.

5. Pleasanton Feedback Letter

Bruce reported that Patti Cobb can send it soon as it is almost finished.

Other Business

Due to John Taylor's presence there was the opportunity to discuss some questions in reference to the Pleasanton Highland Games Adjudications and Performances.

6. Celtic Heritage Area

John Taylor got the history from Doug McConnell. First there was dancing competition then fiddles performing and then harps. The schedule is still under control of the Caledonian Club.

Dance adjudication guarantees a space on the stage.

No guarantee for performance only. John is preparing new forms for adjudication teams to fill out. \$10 per person tickets for dancers will be available. First come first served for time-slot requests. Deadline June 30, 2006.

Performance-only groups should apply to John Taylor and slots will be awarded after all adjudication requests. Performances of dancers, harps, fiddles will be arranged to provide a good show for the audience.

Discussion followed from teachers.

Demonstration groups like to do demos because adjudication is so short. Demos give more time to show the group's mastery and enjoyment to the audience.

Adjudication can be a transformational experience for the group, a graduation for beginners. It provides a goal to encourage practice and excellence.

Audience participation brings in new dancers.

Kids need to go early in the day, for cleanliness, energy, attention, family needs.

John's comments and questions after discussion:

John's goal is to have open communication and consideration for all needs.

He would rather name it "Scottish Heritage Area."

Did we value the "Swords of Gridlock" exhibition? Not two slots on the same day.

John suggested leaving time in the time-slot to allow changing props, equipment, etc. But that leaves a blank stage and audience leaves.

Adjudication stage should stay pretty much as it is.

Every year does not have to be the same.

Basically, the area should be centered around Scottish Country Dancing, rotating other groups in. Would like audience participation half hour twice each day. Many groups like to include 10-15 minutes audience participation in their performance.

Performance groups planning to include audience will have some preference

Idea: have Alastair Fraser play a set on his own on Sunday.

Question about the physical set-up. Cali Club allows us space for information area.

They drop off tents and bleachers. We should organize groups to erect tents, etc. for set-up on Friday. A few persons have been doing this and no one else knows how or helps.

Also question about how many changing tents and special group tents should be allowed.

Sound System: can we borrow from Greg Reznick, branch, Alastair, John, English dancers?

Sound assistant: John needs an assistant to run sound and be MC on second stage. Or perhaps he should have two helpers and he be free to trouble shoot in general.

Assistants could be shared. John will find two sound people for each day. TC could help find volunteers to

MC. 8 people would be good. 4 slots for two days.

John's goal - fairness - invitations should be available by April (late this year). He will get them out ASAP to all teachers and class managers by email.

Old Business (continued)

7. Repertoire Dances of San Francisco Branch

Bruce presented a list of monthly party and Ball dances from the last several years. An * shows current rep. Dances. He asked the teachers to mark preferences for "favorites" and "repertoire" dances. He asked for discussion on:

What should a repertoire list consist of?

What are core dances?

What are favorite dances?

Why have a list?

Monthly party guidelines now state that half the monthly party program should be from the rep. list.

Any dance should not repeat more often than every 3 years.

He is running out of rep and favorite dances to use for monthly parties according to these guidelines.

Email on this topic is welcome.

Unusual figures might be a reason to include a dance.

Sometimes a "type" of dance (one with similar figures) is considered.

8. Database for Ball Program write-ups

Alan reported that he works on this when he can. He works on new programs as they occur. No deadline for this project. TC will revisit this issue in one year.

9. New Secretary:

Discussion included not having a secretary but choosing someone to take notes at each meeting, having a sec. For a few months at a time, etc. Secretary should send out agenda - needs to be consistent. Kathy Allen nominated to be recording secretary. (Bruce, Kathleen) Unanimous vote.

Thanks to Bruce Hamilton for excellent previous work.

10. Fall 2006 Teachers Workshop:

No report on progress from Coletta. Marianna talked to Angela Young from Aberdeen who is willing to do a workshop before or after Asilomar.

There is a music and dance workshop planned for Asilomar.

Suggestion was made not to conflict with Board meeting on November monthly party date. Weekend before Asilomar could have a half-day workshop and the other half day be the Asilomar review. Or Sunday after monthly party Marianna will call Coletta to coordinate efforts.

Addition: An e-mail send by Coletta did not reach the chair until after the meeting: She expressed that she will not be able to do anything regarding a fall 2006 workshop and asked to reassign that task. EVERYONE: please volunteer for this task to coordinate the efforts being made.

New Business

11. Teacher Trainer Selection

Alan reported that he and Bruce are willing to teach Unit 5, starting in Oct. 2006. Moved to accept offer by Bruce and Alan to prepare Preliminary Pass holders for Unit 5 exam to be held in Spring 2007. (Susie, Marianna) Motion passed.

There will be an announcement in the R & S to see if there is a demand for a class to prepare for Unit 1 exam.

Suggested that persons interested in Units 1-2 -3 should talk with students from the last class. Linda, Gail, Sandee, Kathy, Larry said they would be happy to do this.

Other Business

No additional items besides the Pleasanton Highland Games were included.

Date and location of next meetings

Sunday, July 16th to avoid Dunsmuir Games on July 8-9. Meeting at Kathy Allen's home, western San Jose.

September 23rd at Marianna and Alex Harvey's in Mt. View.

January 20th at Pat O'Brien's (hopefully) in So. SF. (6th-monthly party, 13th-long weekend, 27th-near Burns nights and Ball review in Santa Cruz, , Feb 4 - ball review SF)

Moved to adjourn

(Bruce, Alan). Unanimous vote.

Announcements:

Feb 17th - Honolulu Ball and Workshop.
Humuhumunukunukuapuaa band will play.

Kathleen reported that 95 children attended the Children's Ball on March 25 in Livermore. There is a video available to watch.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Allen, recording secretary.