

## **Teachers Committee Minutes**

October 25, 2009

Location – home of Marianna and Alex Harvey

**Present:** Armin Busse, Alan Twigg, Marianna and Alex Harvey, Paula Jacobson, Jim Passage (BC liaison), Trina Merriman, Laura Cooper, Bradley Hobbs, Tim Wilson, Fred DeMarse, Kathy Allen.

**Regrets:** Jo Hamilton, Gail Erwin, Pat O'Brien, Bruce Herbold and Patti Cobb, Cathy Bertics, Bob McMurtry, Susie Langdon-Kass, David Newitt, Ron Wallace, Gary Thomas, Larry Wakeman, Linda Henderson, Kathleen McAdam, Chris Berner, Emily Evans, Sandra Schultz, Sandra Fritts, Rebecca Davis, Bruce Hamilton, Sara Gratiot.

**Meeting called to order** by Armin at 10:13 am

**Agenda** - small additions made

OLD BUSINESS

### **Approval of Minutes:**

May 2009 (Marianna Harvey, Fred DeMarse) passed.

### **Reports:**

#### **Monthly Party committees -**

Valentine Ball Program finished

Dec 2009-Jan 2010 programs finished

Mar – Apr 2010 deadline 12/01/09

May – June 2010 deadline 2/01/10 Bruce Herbold, Lin Pettengill, Patti Cobb or Kathy Allen as alternate.

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#### **Fall 2009 Teachers' Workshop**

Receipts \$525 - Expenses \$500 = \$25 profit.

Kathy reported good registration but a need for 4 sets to cover expenses. This year we had more extra dancers than teachers for the first time. Discussion covered raising the price, getting a cheaper hall, paying the musicians less. Later, Lyle said the musician fee was appropriate and probably should not be diminished very much.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Report from BC-TC Liaison-Jim Passage**

Asilomar was undersold this year which created much apprehension. Branch committee meeting was moved to September to discuss this financial concern.

The scholarship committee helped fill registration for Asilomar.

More volunteer positions are now filled for the event.

Representation at the AGM in Scotland has been arranged for the SF branch. We got proxies because no one we know will attend the meeting.

Branch committee wanted to know if there will be a teacher training expense coming up. Candidate classes would start Fall 2010 to prepare for exam tour in spring 2011.

Laura Cooper has passed Units 1 and 2. Nancy McKeown passed Unit 1. Jim Passage is working on Unit 4.

### **TAC Representative.**

Marianna appealed to the committee that someone else volunteer.

Summer School was at Shawnigan Lake in 2009.

2010 TAC will be in Waterloo, near Toronto in early August.

Marianna reported that the discussions at TAC covered many topics:

How music is being played: Computers are being widely used. For Tempo changes, Slowdown and Atomics are programs used. This is time consuming with the data entry.

Teachers are finding smaller amps, built into speakers. Laptops need an amp to fill a room with music.

TAC membership is down – please renew your membership by writing to

[collieel@msn.com](mailto:collieel@msn.com) TAC membership offers a discount on books, music, teaching articles. Sign up to get it electronically. The fee structure has changed. No rebate, but you get a reduction if you sign up for electronic TACtalk.

Help is available for non-certified teachers. TAC start-up kits are available and an RSCDS pre-teacher level course.

Further discussion covered the problem of teachers using non-standard RSCDS terminology.

Social classes which do not want to practice technique can be taught with “stealth technique.”

Mini cribs are often incorrect and at least not complete. Please don't teach from these.

Problem of non-advanced dancers insisting on being, or putting themselves into advanced classes. Some regions assign dancers to class levels. This year TAC asked for recommendations from students' local teachers for class assignments at TAC Summer School.

Suggestion was made for a third level of classes at workshops. Beg, Advanced, and a third level.

Marianna asked for someone else to be TAC representative next year. The Branch Committee has in the past paid ½ of the registration fee and the transportation cost.

2010 TAC at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario

Aug 6-8, Ball on Saturday night

Summer School Aug 8-15, 2010

2011 TAC at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Ontario.

Decision on new TAC rep is scheduled for January 2010 meeting.

Armin will summarize TAC notes and put them on our Website near TC Committee minutes.

### **New dances to test for headquarters:**

HQ has offered a list of dances for local groups to critique. Mark one dance of each type (jig, reel, strathspey) as first preference, and overall favorite.

Paula reported that her group tried them.

Donna Weidenfeller has further information and is our local contact as secretary. Get review form from Donna. They are all upper intermediate dances.

### **Other Business:**

1) Dance clarification: Bridge over the Atlantic

For Asilomar, the TC has agreed that on bar 7-8, third couple continue dancing a small extra loop to face out, to join into RA or LA.

Alltshellach: lead down and up.

In the future, Asilomar dance detail questions may be discussed at the TC meeting in May.

- 2) Teachers' Workshop – LA Branch – November 28-29, See details at Fred's email (10/26/09)
- 3) Call for Examiners, presented by Armin via email from Donna, from Helen Russell, Education and Training Committee. "Expressions of interest are invited from experienced RSCDS tutors in North America who wish to apply to be considered as examiners for the Society." Information and application are available from Moira Thomson, the Examinations and Youth Officer.....[moira.thomson@rscds.org](mailto:moira.thomson@rscds.org).

**Next Meetings:**

January 23, 2010 hosted by Lin Pettengill or Kathy Allen

May 8, 2010 – hosted by Pat O'Brien

**Meeting adjourned:** 11.52 (Alan, Trina)