



Teachers' Committee Minutes Final

Meeting

Saturday, 19 January, 2013
at the home of Alan Twigg, Mountain View, CA

Present

Kathy Allen, Armin Busse, Rebecca Davis, Alex Harvey, Marianna Harvey, Bradley Hobbs, Paula Jacobson, Trina Merriman, Alan Twigg, Tim Wilson

Regrets

Cathy Bertics, Bob Branstrom, Kristi Closser, Patti Cobb, Laura Cooper, Gail Erwin, Crystal Goodwin, Sara Gratiot, Bruce Hamilton, Jo Hamilton, Bruce Herbold, Linda Henderson, Susie Langdon Kass, Don MacQueen, Sarah MacQueen, Kathleen McAdam, Dwayne McQuilliams, Mary McQuilliams, David Newitt, Lin Pettengill, Greg Reznick, Sandra Schultz, Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 by Armin Busse, Chair.

Edit Agenda

There were no changes to the posted agenda.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

There were no changes to the draft minutes.

Proposed: Paula – that the draft minutes be accepted as final

Seconded: Alan

Motion carried, without objection

Report on Party Program Committees

March and April Monthly Party programs are completed and available to Branch teachers. The Valentine's Ball program is widely available and descriptions of the non-RSCDS dances were sent out to Branch teachers on 10 November, 2012.

Courtesy

Armin and Bruce Hamilton are continuing to meet to create a new Branch document on courtesy protocol for classes and Branch events. They anticipate presenting the completed document at the next Teachers' Committee meeting (18 May, 2013).

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin will continue to work with Bruce Hamilton to compose an article on courtesy for the Reel & Strathspey.

MCing – Teachers' feedback form

Beginning in October, 2012, MC Feedback forms have been available at Monthly parties to elicit opinions from those in attendance on the performance of the Master of Ceremonies: the quality of their dance briefings, their welcoming manner and their management skills. The blank forms are now kept with the Monthly Party supplies along with separate receptacles for each of the evening's MCs. The completed forms are only read by that MC.

Still in its trial period, the utilization of the form has been mixed. At the October Monthly Party held in the Mountain View Masonic Hall each of the three MCs received 15-20 responses. At the January Monthly Party, also at the Mountain View Masonic Hall, there were five MCs. Each MC only received a few responses, many of which were simply marked "excellent" to every question. It is important that the blank forms and receptacles be placed in a widely visible and accessible place and not hidden in a corner of the room. While dancers are still getting familiar with the feedback forms, the first MC of the evening should make an announcement stating their availability and purpose.

Upon further review of the form, it was decided that the last question, "Did this MC make it easy, accessible and enjoyable for you to dance?" was too open of a question and perhaps not entirely possible for the MC to achieve.

Proposed: Alan – that the last question, "Did this MC make it easy, accessible and enjoyable for you to dance?" be deleted from the MC Feedback form.

Seconded: Paula

Motion carried, without objection

Armin encourages the continued use of the feedback form for the trial period to June 2013, as planned. Hosting classes of the Monthly Parties need to support and encourage use of the form.

With the Teachers' Workshop coming up on 23 March, 2013 (which focuses on improving Master of Ceremonies skills), it was suggested that if the filled-out forms were made available to those conducting the workshop (Bruce Hamilton, Ron Wallace, Patty Cobb) they could better target their presentation and exercises. The MC's name could be removed from the form to preserve anonymity.

New Business

Elect Officers

Chair

Armin Busse was the only candidate offered for nomination for the position of Chair of the Teachers' Committee.

Proposed: Paula – that Armin continue as Chair of the Teachers' Committee

Seconded: Bradley

Motion carried, without objection

Secretary

Bradley Hobbs was the only candidate offered for nomination for the position of Secretary of the Teachers' Committee.

Proposed: Alan – that Bradley continue as Secretary of the Teachers' Committee

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

Monthly Party Programming Continuity Person

Bruce Herbold had expressed interest in continuing his role as the Monthly Party Continuity Person and was the only candidate offered for nomination for that position.

Proposed: Paula – that Bruce continue as the Monthly Party Continuity Person

Seconded: Bradley

Motion carried: 9 aye, 1 abstain

Ball Programming Continuity Person

Paula Jacobson was the only candidate offered for nomination for the position of Ball Programming Continuity Person.

Proposed: Bradley – that Paula continue as Ball Programming Continuity Person

Seconded: Marianna

Motion carried, without objection

Elect TAC Representative

Paula has served as our Teachers' Association (Canada) representative for the past three years and wished to step down from this role. After much discussion of the position and its responsibilities, Trina, who already planned on attending the 2013 TAC AGM in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada was willing to be the designated Branch representative provided Paula would continue as the TAC representative for an additional year.

Proposed: Bradley – that Paula continue as TAC Representative for an additional year and that

Trina would represent the Branch in her stead at the TAC AGM .

Seconded: Kathy

Motion carried, without objection

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair) will send out a request via the teachers' reflector for teachers to consider being the TAC representative starting in 2014.

Selection of Party Program Committees

Armin included in his survey form sent out on 14 January, 2013 a section where teachers could choose which parties and events they would like to select the programs for. The response was very good and facilitated securing volunteers for the next year.

Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball

Program due 1 March 2013. Committee: Paula Jacobson, Linda Henderson, Alan Twigg

Jean Patrick Memorial Dance

Program due 15 March, 2013. Committee: Paula Jacobson, Lin Pettengill, Greg Reznick

October, November Monthly Parties

Programs due 1 August, 2013. Committee: Bruce Herbold, Kathy Allen, Laura Cooper, Marianna Harvey

Valentine's Ball

Programs due 15 August, 2013. Committee: Paula Jacobson, Rebecca Davis, Trina Merriman

December, January Monthly Parties

Programs due 1 October, 2013. Committee: Bruce Herbold, Susie Langdon Kass, Linn Pettengill

March, April Monthly Parties

Programs due 1 December, 2013. Committee: Bruce Herbold, Kristi Closser, Sandra Schultz

May, June Monthly Parties

Programs due 1 February, 2014. Committee: Bruce Herbold, Patti Cobb, Tim Wilson

Discuss future Teachers Workshops

Trina reports that plans for the Teachers' Workshop scheduled for 23 March 2013 are proceeding well. This will be a half-day workshop, with lunch provided, focusing on improving our skills as Masters of Ceremonies. The workshop is open to teachers of any level.

Rebecca suggestion for a future workshop was how to be nicer to our dancing bodies. A possible leader for this workshop might be one of the medical staff at The Healthy Dancers [sic] Clinic, at the ODC (Oberlin Dance Collective) Dance Commons, 351 Shotwell Street, San Francisco. This limited-hours clinic offers medical help and physical therapy to dancers of any discipline on a donation basis.

Report from BC

Bradley (BC – TC liaison) reported that the Branch Committee formally approved Greg Reznick's proposal to support new Part 1 teachers. This proposal is detailed in the 22 September, 2012 Teachers' Committee minutes (Teacher Resources). However, an oversight was made in the BC proposal such that the Corresponding Secretary of the BC was directed to inform the Branch Registrar of new Part 1 teachers rather than the Branch Registrar and the Teachers' Committee Chair. Both parties need this information to carry out their duties as laid out in Greg's proposal.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC – TC liaison) will propose at the next Branch Committee meeting an amendment to the original proposal to include the Teachers' Committee Chair on the list of people to which the Branch Corresponding relays the results of teacher examinations.

The BC is continuing to appeal to teachers for help to find volunteers for several key posts in the Branch. There is need for Publicity and Outreach volunteers to handle and expand on the tasks previously done by Susie Langdon Kass. Susie has also relinquished her role in organizing the Branch's information tent at the Pleasanton Highland Games & Gathering: a volunteer will be needed to fill this spot.

Bradley also relayed to the Branch Committee that the Teachers' Committee reported that there was insufficient interest by Branch dancers to conduct a teacher training course in preparation for the teacher examination in 2013. The Branch Corresponding Secretary needs to inform Society Headquarters that the Branch wishes to be a site for the examination tour, should there be sufficient interest.

The Society held its AGM on 3 November, 2012 in Aberdeen, Scotland. The candidates whom the Branch Committee endorsed won their seats.

For the Education and Training Committee:

Pat Harrower, 3 year term
Leslie Lambert, 3 year term
Anne Smyth, 3 year term
Anne Taylor, 2 year term

For the Membership Services Committee:

Linda Gaul, 3 year term
Anselm Lingnau, 3 year term
Keith Bark, 2 year term

For the Youth Services Committee:

Adam Brady, 3 year term
Louise MacDougall, 3 year term
Anne McArthur, 2 year term

The Branch Committee abstained from endorsing Anne McArthur.

Regarding AGM item 13.1: Membership Subscriptions (fees), the Teachers' Committee had presented a compelling argument for voting down the £1 annual fee increase as the Society had not offered sufficient information to support a fee increase. This argument was presented to the Branch Committee who in turn, by a 4 – 3 vote, directed our delegates to also vote down the proposal.

The San Francisco Branch was in the minority: the motion passed. The Branch Committee will now decide on how best to handle the fee increase as it affects our members and the overall membership of our Branch.

Report on TAC

Paula (TAC rep) has been forwarding reports from TAC through the teachers' reflector as she receives them.

It was mentioned that the first meeting of the TAC AGM is scheduled for Friday night, the first night of the weekend gathering. This arrangement makes it difficult for delegates who have to travel a fair distance to get to the meeting in time. Often they miss the meeting altogether.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Paula (TAC rep) was asked to request an alternate time for the opening meeting to accommodate delegates who must travel a fair distance.

Special Topics for future Meetings

"Using YouTube to advertise or teach classes" will be the special round-table discussion topic for the 18 May, 2013 meeting. "Teaching dancers of more advanced age" will be the special round-table discussion topic for the 21 September, 2013 meeting.

No other topics were suggested at this time.

Branch Webmaster

Since this item concerns the Branch Website and its Webmaster, the Teachers' Committee sent this item to the Branch Committee for discussion.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC liaison) will bring this item to the Branch Committee for resolution.

Branch Webmaster- TC support

Armin needs to meet with Kristi Closser to discuss her support role for the Teachers' Committee Website.

Action Item: Armin will contact Kristi Closser to discuss her support role for the Teachers' Committee

- ▶ Website.

Other Business

Discussion on Dances

"Arthur's Seat" (Jack McConachie, editor, Scottish Country Dances of the Eighteenth Century) and "Extraordinary Marilyn" (Paula Jacobson, deviser, Heart of San Francisco) are both on the Valentine's Ball program. These dances were discussed and clarified. Paula (Ball Programming Continuity Person) has sent out detailed instructions explaining the otherwise ambiguous phrases.

There was further discussion on how to handle 2-couple dances at Monthly Parties. There were pros and cons raised for dancing them six times through or the standard eight times through. It was decided that the MC determines the number of repeats for a dance. However, the problem arises on dances when they are carried through to the next monthly party. It was agreed that consistency of repeats was desirable.

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

"A Capital Jig" (T. MacKay, devisor, 5 Dances 2009 including the Homecoming Dance) was suggested as a possible starter jig. Although this dance starts with the set and rotate figure, many felt that this figure could be danced by most dancers if it was practiced in class.

Rebecca has a dance which she wrote which would work well as a starter jig.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Rebecca will forward the dance description of her jig to Armin (Chair) for review by the Teachers' Committee.

Other announcements

There were no other announcements.

Choose date and location for the next meetings

The Teachers' Workshop will be held on 23 March, 2013 from 10:30 to 3:00. The venue will be the West Portal Lutheran Church and School located at 200 Sloat Avenue at 19th Avenue in San Francisco. The deadline for registering is 16 March, 2013.

The next Teachers' Committee meeting will be held at the home of Patti Cobb and Bruce Herbold in Oakland (new address) on Saturday 18 May, 2013 at 2:00. Social time begins at 1:30.

The meeting on 21 September, 2013 will be hosted by Kathleen McAdam in Lafayette.

No venue was chosen for the meeting tentatively scheduled for 18 January, 2014, although Paula offered to host this meeting in Aptos.

Adjourn

Proposed: Tim – that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Paula

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair

There was no special topic discussed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bradley Hobbs
Recording Secretary

Follow-Up Action

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin will continue to work with Bruce Hamilton to compose an article on courtesy for the Reel & Strathspey.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair) will send out a request via the teachers' reflector for teachers to consider being the TAC representative starting in 2014.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC – TC liaison) will propose at the next Branch Committee meeting an amendment to the original proposal to include the Teachers' Committee Chair on the list of people to which the Branch Corresponding relays the results of teacher examinations.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Paula (TAC rep) was asked to request an alternate time for the opening meeting to accommodate delegates who must travel a fair distance.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC liaison) will bring this item to the Branch Committee for resolution.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin will contact Kristi Closser to discuss her support role for the Teachers' Committee Website.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Rebecca will forward the dance description of her jig to Armin (Chair) for review by the Teachers' Committee.