



Teachers' Committee Minutes
Final

Meeting

Saturday 18 January, 2014
at the home of Patti Cobb and Bruce Herbold, Oakland, CA

Present

Kathy Allen, Armin Busse, Kristi Closser, Laura Cooper, Juliet Davoren, Alex Harvey, Marianna Harvey, Linda Henderson, Bruce Herbold, Bradley Hobbs, Paula Jacobson, Kathleen McAdam, Trina Merriman, Lin Pettengill, Greg Reznick, Sandee Schultz, Alan Twigg.

Regrets

Fred DeMarse, Sara Gratiot, Gail Erwin, Bruce Hamilton, Jo Hamilton, Susie Langdon Kass, Pat O'Brien, Marian Stroh, Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace, Tim Wilson.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 by Armin Busse, Chair.

Edit Agenda

The Branch's core repertoire was added to the agenda.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

There were no changes to the draft minutes.

Proposed: Tina – that the [21 September, 2013] draft minutes be accepted as written.

Seconded: Marianna

Motion carried, without objection

Report on Party Program Committees

Bruce reported that the December and January Monthly party programs have been completed (and danced). Also completed are the programs for the March and April's monthly parties, as well as the Valentine's Ball.

Bruce again emphasized that he is happy to send out the non-RSCDS dance descriptions via the teachers' e-mail reflector, and will do so as a matter of course. Descriptions of non-RSCDS dances on Ball programs should be requested by the Ball Continuity person (Paula) and Bruce will send these out via the teachers' e-mail reflector.

Courtesy

Armin and Bruce Hamilton have written a new Branch document on courtesy protocol for classes and Branch events. This article appeared in the January/February issue of the Reel & Strathspey and is posted on the Teachers' Committee webpage.

MCing – Teachers' feedback form

For the second dance year, feedback forms have been made available at Monthly parties to elicit feedback from those in attendance on their perception of how well the Master of Ceremonies carried out their duties. Although fewer dancers are taking advantage of this vehicle to express their thoughts on how well the MC fulfilled their duties, there was no discussion on discontinuing this project.

Having the forms on the sign-in table, although seemingly connected because they are administrative in nature, may not be the most advantageous placement of the forms. It was suggested that the number of responses might increase if the forms were placed by the punch and water station, publicity table, and bookstore.

New Business

Elect Officers

Chair

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

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

Seconded: Greg

Motion carried, without objection

Secretary

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

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

Seconded: Alan

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: Lin

Motion carried, without objection

Ball Programming Continuity Person

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

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

Seconded: Bruce

Motion carried, without objection

Elect TAC Rep

Proposed: Kathleen – that Paula continue as TAC Representative.

Seconded: Armin

Motion carried, without objection

Discuss future Teachers' Workshop

At the 19 January 2013 Teachers' Committee meeting, Rebecca Davis suggested a workshop on "how to be nicer to our dancing bodies". This suggestion was revived at today's meeting. One of the medical staff at The Healthy Dancers [sic] Clinic at the ODC (Oberlin Dance Collective) Dance Commons at 351 Shotwell Street in San Francisco may be able to lead this workshop. This limited-hours clinic offers medical help and physical therapy to dancers of any discipline on a donation basis. Trina offered to follow-up and make inquiries to The Healthy Dancers Clinic.

- ▶ Action Item: Bradley will send contact information for The Healthy dancers Clinic to Trina.

Kristi suggested that a workshop on thinking on your feet (changing teaching plans on the fly, class management) may be beneficial, especially for newer teachers. There are surprising and unforeseen occurrences that every teacher faces from time to time despite proper preparation. Juliet embellished this idea by suggesting that this topic could be covered like a board game with challenging situations written on cards which participating teachers could draw and consider how best to handle them. Juliet will send a notice via the Teachers' reflector to invite teachers to send her descriptions of challenging situations they had to resolve in their class.

- ▶ Action Item: Juliet will send a notice via the Teachers' reflector to invite teachers to send her descriptions of challenging situations they had to resolve in their class.

Selection of Party Program Committees

Armin included in his survey form sent out on 9 December, 2013 and again on 5 January, 2014 a section where teachers could choose for which parties and events they would like to select the programs. Program committees for the 2014/15 dance year events are as follows:

Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball

Program due 1 March 2014. Committee: Paula Jacobson, Linda Henderson, Alan Twigg

Jean Patrick Memorial Dance

Program due 15 March, 2014. Committee: Paula Jacobson, Kristi Closser, Greg Reznick

October, November Monthly Parties

Programs due 1 August, 2014. Committee: Bruce Herbold, Lin Pettengill, Armin Busse

Valentine's Ball

Programs due 15 August, 2014. Committee: Paula Jacobson, Trina Merriman, Marianna Harvey

December, January Monthly Parties

Programs due 1 October, 2014. Committee: Bruce Herbold, Pat O'Brien, Sandee Schultz

March, April Monthly Parties

Programs due 1 December, 2014. Committee: Bruce Herbold, Tim Wilson, Juliet Davoren

May, June Monthly Parties

Programs due 1 February, 2015. Committee: Bruce Herbold, Linda Henderson, Fred DeMarse

A discussion ensued on the short lead time for selecting the dances for the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball and the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance. Committees are chosen at the January meetings, yet the due dates are in March. At best this is two and a half months, which may seem like sufficient time to arrange the programs for these events. In reality, after settling on a mutually agreeable time for the chosen committee to meet and then finessing any discrepancies or conflicts in the program afterwards, this is a very tight timeline. It was decided by consensus that henceforth, committees for the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball and the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance will be selected at the September meeting with the due dates remaining on 1 March and 15 March the following year respectively.

- ▶ Action Item: Armin will assign selection of program committees for the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball and the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance to the September Teachers' Committee meeting.

A comment was also made on the wording of the survey which Armin sends out eliciting preference choices from teachers and the program committees they might want to serve on. There is a subtle but relevant difference between wanting to serve on a given committee and willing to serve on that committee. The survey needs to be constructed to accept responses which will reflect these different levels of ambition.

Report from BC

Bradley (BC-TC liaison) reported that at the Society's AGM in Perth Scotland on 2 November, 2013, Item 12.1 from the agenda was approved by a 51% majority. Item 12.1 declares:

"The Management Board proposes that for the year from 1st July 2014, the basic full annual subscription shall rise by £2.00 to £18.00, with other categories pro-rated as appropriate."

Currently £2.00 is equivalent to \$3.68.

In the next few months the BC will decide how to adjust membership rates to include the increase imposed by the Society. The San Francisco Branch directed its delegates to vote down the proposal as there was no defense of the motion submitted to Branches.

In the absence of the planned article for the January issue of the Reel & Strathspey, Bradley explained in the would-be author's stead the various funds available to dancers wishing to attend this year's Valentine's Ball.

The Valentine's Ball Fund, which is listed on the membership renewal form, is available to Branch members needing financial assistance. This fund is tax-deductible for donors and the fund is administered by the Scholarship Committee (Paula Jacobson, Linda Henderson, and Jonathan Lovell). Dancers seeking awards from this fund are asked to fill out the standard scholarship form which can be found on the Branch website (log on to access the member's area of www.rscds-sf.org. Then select Branch Resources/Class Documents/Branch Scholarship Form).

The Valentine's Ball Committee Fund is also available to aid dancers wishing to attend the Valentine's Ball. This fund is available to members and non-members alike, but awards are given in exchange for work on or in preparation to the Ball. Donations to this fund are not tax-deductible, but donors may specify an intended dancer or class they wish to support. Dancers seeking assistance from this fund should send inquiries to the Valentine's Ball Registrar (Sharon Stewart). The Valentine's Ball registration form, which includes the Registrar's contact information, can be found on the home page of the Branch website as well as in the public section (no need to log on) under Events/The Annual Valentine's Day Ball.

Other news of BC business is the daunting task of ensuring that the Fall workshop and ball continue to be held at Asilomar Conference Grounds, as overwhelmingly desired by attendees who were polled. An ad hoc committee has been formed to research establishing an endowment fund to support this event.

Lastly, Mark Burt has replaced Bob Branstrom as the Monthly Party Venue person.

Report on TAC

Paula continues to relay to Branch teachers via the teachers' reflector any general information she receives from the Teachers' Association (Canada).

Paula will be representing the San Francisco Branch at the TAC AGM in Greeley, CO on 25-27 July, 2015

Special Topics for future Meetings

From the discussion on future teachers' workshops, it was thought that the topic of thinking on one's feet would be best handled in an after-meeting discussion rather than a separate workshop.

Other Business

Discussion on Dances

Comments were made that the Valentine's Ball program was well thought out and the dances are very accessible.

The music suggested for Terry Glasspool's "Gypsy Dreams" (on the Valentine's ball program) is "in the style of Birks of Invermay". Often the tunes for "Birks of Invermay" are played for "Gypsy Dreams". Since the dance "Birks of Invermay" is well established in our dance repertoire, the tunes for "Sea Tangle of Skye" were suggested as an alternative to keep the Birks of Invermay music unique with that dance. This set of tunes, written by Liz Donaldson, have been recorded by Lyle Ramshaw, Susan Worland Bentley, Michael Bentley on their CD, The Breakdown.

Branch Standard Repertoire

Bruce (Monthly Party Continuity Person) noticed that there are dances on our repertoire list which have fallen out of favor. The repertoire list ranks the top 100 dances from the last 15 years. Bruce feels that it is due time to update the list: replace some of the more cumbersome dances with some favorite newer dances.

Proposed: Greg – that a committee be formed to evaluate the current standard repertoire list and update it as required.

Seconded: Paula

Motion carried, without objection

- ▶ Action Item: Bruce will send notification of the formation of this new ad hoc committee via the teachers' reflector to seek out interested parties.

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

"Juniper Jig" by Jean Atwood (Alexander Dances, Book 5) was suggested as a suitable starter jig for party and ball programs.

On this note, Bruce was asked to make a list of approved starter jigs available to teachers.

- ▶ Action Item: Bruce will compile and disseminate a list of the approved starter jigs via the teachers' reflector.

Other announcements

Please ensure that first-aid kits (and automatic external defibrillators -- AEDs, if available) are readily accessible at classes and Branch events.

Choose date and location for next meetings

The next meeting, tentatively scheduled for 31 May, 2014, will be hosted by Kathy Allen in San Jose

Meeting locations for 20 September, 2014 and 10 January, 2015 were not settled.

Adjourn

Proposed: Bruce – that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Kristi

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

The special topic for discussion, "Teaching dancers of more advanced age" lead by Marianna Harvey was tabled for another time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hobbs
Recording Secretary

Follow-Up Actions

- ▶ Action Item: Bradley will send contact information for The Healthy dancers Clinic to Trina.
- ▶ Action Item: Juliet will send a notice via the Teachers' reflector to invite teachers to send her descriptions of challenging situations they had to resolve in their class.
- ▶ Action Item: Armin will assign selection of program committees for the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball and the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance to the September Teachers' Committee meeting.
- ▶ Action Item: Bruce will send notification of the formation of this new ad hoc committee (Branch standard Repertoire) via the teachers' reflector to seek out interested parties.
- ▶ Action Item: Bruce will compile and disseminate a list of the approved starter jigs via the teachers' reflector.