



Teachers' Committee Minutes  
Final

**Meeting**

Saturday 21 May, 2016  
at the home of Alan Twhigg, Mountain View

**Present**

Kathy Allen, Armin Busse, Laura Cooper, Bradley Hobbs, Paula Jacobson, Stephen Thomforde, Alan Twhigg.

**Regrets**

Kristi Closser, Patti Cobb, Fred DeMarse, Sara Gratiot, Bruce Hamilton, Alex Harvey, Marianna Harvey, Linda Henderson, Bruce Herbold, Susie Langdon Kass, Trina Merriman, Pat O'Brien, Lin Pettengill, Rachel Pusey, Robert Sargent, Sandee Schultz, Gary Thomas, Tim Wilson.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by Armin Busse, Chair.

**Edit Agenda**

There were no edits or additions to the posted agenda.

**Announcements**

Janet Hayter is showing steady improvement at a facility in Los Gatos following a fall at home earlier in the month.

**Old Business**

***Change/accept minutes of previous meeting***

*Proposed:* Paula- that the [16 January, 2016] preliminary minutes be accepted as final.

*Seconded:* Kathy

*Motion carried, without objection*

### ***Report on Party Program Committees***

The programs for May's and June's Monthly Parties have been completed and sent out [11 March]. October and November's Monthly Party programs are due 1 August. Fred DeMarse, who was absent from the January TC meeting when party program committees were designated, agreed to help plan the December and January Monthly Parties.

The program for the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance was sent out 15 March, while the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball was completed and made available to the Asilomar Committee for distribution. It was posted on the teachers' Webpage on 1 March.

At the meeting it was clarified that the Ball programs (JPMD, KMMB, Valentine's Ball) are to be sent to the appropriate Event Chair for distribution to teachers and class managers. The Event Chair is responsible for contacting Marilyn Stocker if dance diagrams are desired.

### ***Report on future Teachers' Workshop: Injury Prevention and Recovery***

Trina Merriman, who has been arranging this workshop on injury prevention and recovery, was unable to attend today's meeting.

### ***Guidance and Courtesy of Dancers***

An article has been written by Greg Reznick for the Reel & Strathspey on guidance and courtesy of dancers, although the release date is unknown.

On this topic of guidance and courtesy, the issue of dress code was brought up. When Ball Chairs work hard to foster a festive and elegant tone for their event, it is disappointing to see one or two members of the Branch flaunt the standards of the event by dressing inappropriately. While it is acknowledged that it can be expensive to outfit one's self for a formal event, an expensive outfit is not required—only tidiness and sartorial awareness.

The Boston Branch has Veronica's Closet, which is their means for making used Scottish clothing and accoutrements available to dancers. The San Francisco Branch does not have a "Veronica's Closet", however, we do have an annual ball gown swap for the ladies. For gentlemen lacking a kilt, a clean dress shirt and dress pants would be fine. The Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball and the Valentine's Ball are formal events: casual dress is not appropriate.

This being a Branch issue, it was agreed that any dress code or recommendation should come from the Branch Committee.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please bring the matter of dress code to the attention of the Branch Committee to handle at their discretion.

## **New Business**

### ***Report from BC***

Bradley (BC-TC liaison) reported that at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 7 June, Mindy Brown-Lechner, David Deacon, Bradley Hobbs and Sharon Stewart were elected to the Branch Committee. Mindy will be taking Margaret Ward's seat on the BC. Margaret's term ends 30 June 2016. Five seats will be voted on next year (four seats in the even-numbered years, five seats in the odd-numbered years). While some BC members will run again, it is believed that there will be several openings for new

candidates. Teachers are asked to identify members in their classes who might be interested in serving on the Branch Committee. They may contact Bradley (Nominating Committee).

The BC is focusing on Monthly Parties consistently losing money, except in the less expensive halls (Hill & Valley Club in Hayward and the Aptos Grange). Teachers at the meeting had some suggestions for alternatives to the higher priced venues. An afternoon party in a park, such as Kelly Park in San Jose might be a favorable solution. A park with a pavilion might be better accepted than dancing on the grass. Bruce Hamilton, who participates in the Saturday night contra dance, may know of other affordable venues. The First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto (625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, 94301), previously site of the Mountain View class, may be less expensive than some of the current Monthly Party venues.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please consult with Bruce Hamilton on affordable Monthly Party venues. Relay any information to Mark Burt (Monthly Party Venue Coordinator).
  
- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please ask Mark Burt to consider the First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto (625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, 94301) for a monthly party.

The RSCDS membership voted through their delegates to approve the Society's motion 12.1 to raise subscription fees (membership dues) £2. At the March BC meeting, the board decided rather than raise membership dues the full \$2.83 equivalent (at that time) rates for adult members, they would increase by \$2.00. Youth (12 – 17) and Young Adult (18 – 24) membership dues would remain unchanged. In the upcoming dance year, the BC plans to deliberate on a family rate.

At the January TC meeting, the Teachers Reception at the Asilomar Ball and Workshop Weekend was discussed. The budget for this event has risen to the point where it is a concern to the BC. There were many thoughtful ideas offered by teachers at the last TC meeting on how to thank the teachers and give them an opportunity to network with out-of-town teachers attending Asilomar. These ideas were brought to the BC.

The Branch Committee discussed the Teachers Reception as part of the Asilomar 2016 preliminary budget, and therefore, despite the brainstorming from the TC, the issue was handled simply as a financial matter. It was resolved that the budget for the Teachers reception be reduced to \$800, about what is spent on the average Monthly Party.

### ***Approve TC-BC Liaison***

Bradley has been serving as the Teachers' Committee-Branch Committee liaison, and, since he was recently re-elected to the BC for another two-year term, was happy to continue in this post. By unanimous decision, Bradley was approved as the TC-BC liaison.

### ***Report on TAC***

Trina Merriman (TAC representative for the Branch) could not attend today's meeting.

### ***Selection of Party Program Committees***

Post-meeting, Fred DeMarse confirmed that he would be willing to support the program committee for the December/January Monthly Parties. That being settled, the program committees for the 2016/2017 dance year are as follows:

October and November (due 1 August)  
Lin Pettengill, Bradley, Bruce Herbold

December and January (due 1 October)  
Kathy, Fred DeMarse, Bruce Herbold

March and April (due 1 December):  
Juliet Davoren, Kristi Closser, Bruce Herbold

May and June (due 1 February):  
Marianna Harvey, Linda Henderson, Bruce Herbold

### ***Candidate Class***

On the odd-numbered years, the San Francisco Branch has the opportunity to be an examination center for teacher candidates. In preparation for the teacher exams, the Branch may offer a candidate class if there is sufficient interest. Six candidates have expressed interest in pursuing, or continuing to pursue their teacher certification. This is the minimum number of candidates required to have the two examiners travel to the Branch site without the Branch incurring additional costs.

It was decided that there was enough merit to proceed with the Candidate Class. Armin expressed interest in being the tutor for this class. Armin was part of the team of tutors which guided the candidates in 2011, the last time this course was offered by the SF Branch. Armin has also taken the tutor training course offered by TAC.

Paula offered her support in helping the candidates with oratory work to ensure that the candidates were comfortable speaking to their class and that their voices projected. Alan offered to help with Unit 2 (Practical Dancing) or Unit 5 (Teaching, Level 2).

*Proposed:* Alan- That the branch hold a Candidates' Course and apply to be an examination center

*Seconded:* Paula

*Motion carried unanimously: Bradley and Stephen abstaining*

Armin will contact Kate Walker, the Examinations Coordinator at TAC to inform TAC that SF wishes to be an examination center in 2017.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (Teacher Tutor), with the approval of the Branch Committee to proceed with the Candidates' Course and the offer to be an examination center, please contact Kate Walker, Examinations Coordinator at TAC ([tcc@tac-rscds.org](mailto:tcc@tac-rscds.org)), to inform TAC that the San Francisco Branch wishes to be an examination center in 2017. Please carbon copy Don MacQueen (BC Chair) and Donna Weidenfeller (BC Corresponding Secretary).

It is possible that previous Unit 5 candidates would want to re-sit the exam or that other Level 1 (prelim) teachers would want to train for their Unit 5 exam.

### ***Discuss future Teachers Workshops***

As detailed under "*Report on future Teachers' Workshop: Injury Prevention and Recovery*", Trina is proceeding with her plans for a workshop on this topic. No other topics were raised, or teachers suggested, for future workshops.

### ***Special Topics for future Meetings***

There were several topics suggested for discussion at future meetings. Proposed topics were:

- Music technology for classes (focus on music players and software)
- Monthly party influence on class programming (round table discussion)
- Class manager/teacher run classes (round table discussion, pros and cons)
- Methodologies to recruit and retain dancers at the class level. (round table discussion)
- Working with very experienced dancers helping beginner dancers incorrectly.

### **Other Business**

#### ***Discussion on Dances***

No dances were brought up for resolution.

#### ***Suggestions for a new Starter Jig***

Kristi Closser suggested The Beach Dancer, by Mr. Eddy West of New Zealand.  
(<http://eddywest.nz/beachd.html>)

If other people have suggestions, submissions should be sent to Bruce Herbold (Monthly Party Continuity person).

#### ***Other announcements***

There were no additional announcements.

#### ***Choose date and location for next meetings***

A couple of teachers were volunteered in absentia to host the 17 September meeting based on their location. Stephen also offered to host the September meeting. However, at the January TC meeting Lin Pettengill volunteered to host the 17 September, 2016 meeting; while Marianna Harvey offered to host the 21 January, 2017 meeting.

#### ***Adjourn***

*Proposed:* Laura – that the meeting adjourn

*Seconded:* Kathy

*Motion carried, without objection*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

Because of the full agenda, no post-meeting special topic was scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hobbs  
Recording Secretary

## Follow-Up Actions

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please bring the matter of dress code to the attention of the Branch Committee to handle at their discretion.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please consult with Bruce Hamilton on affordable Monthly Party venues. Relay any information to Mark Burt (Monthly Party Venue Coordinator).
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