



Teachers' Committee Minutes Final

Meeting

Saturday 23 September, 2017

Host: Kathy Allen

Present

Kathy Allen, Armin Busse, Rebecca Davis, Juliet Davoren, Bradley Hobbs, Paula Jacobson, Sheena MacQueen, Trina Merriman, Rachel Pusey, Alan Twhigg.

Regrets

Fred DeMarse, Sara Gratiot, Bruce Hamilton, Marianna Harvey, Linda Henderson, Susie Langdon Kass, Lin Pettengill, Sandee Schultz, Gary Thomas, Tim Wilson.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Armin Busse, Chair.

Edit Agenda

There were no edits or additions to the posted agenda.

Announcements

Rebecca Davis reported on a new venue in the South Bay with a wooden floor, which may be ideal for Monthly Parties and similar events. The hall (Grant Park, 1575 Holt Avenue, Los Altos) has a kitchen available. Arrangement may be made through the Los Altos Parks and Recreation Department.

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

Proposed: Armin – that the [20 May, 2017] preliminary minutes be accepted as final.

Seconded: Paula

Motion carried, without objection

Report on Party Program Committees

Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball 2017 program and dance information was sent on 14 and 15 June. October and November Monthly Party programs are done, and program and dance information was sent out 19 June.

Winter Ball (previously, Valentine's Ball) 2018 program has been compiled by Armin, Fred and Paula. It will be sent out in December.

The remaining Monthly Parties are, as reported in the January minutes:

December and January (due 1 October)

Rachel Pusey, Susie Langdon Kass, Bruce Herbold

March and April (due 1 December):

Juliet Davoren, Laura Cooper, Bruce Herbold

May and June (due 1 February):

Lin Pettengill, Marianna Harvey, Bruce Herbold

Report on Teachers' Workshop May 2017

Armin thought the workshop, which presented the fundamentals of Alexander Technique to prevent injury, was great. Robert Britton, who led the workshop will lead the Teacher Seminar at Asilomar.

The lunch, catered by Daniel Pearch (a San Francisco dancer and friend to many in the Branch), was excellent.

New Business**Report from BC**

Following the Branch AGM in May, there were two vacancies on the Branch Committee. Paul Bennett has been appointed to fill one opening. In accordance with the Branch Bylaws, he will serve a one-year term.

Grant Bennett (no relation to the aforementioned Mr. Bennett) has agreed to fulfill treasurer functions for the Branch. At this point in time, he has chosen not to be a member of the Branch Committee but will enjoy some of the privileges of being on the Branch Committee, which our Bylaws allow.

The Society's Annual General Meeting Weekend will be held in Perth, Scotland on 3-5 November. The AGM itself will be on Saturday the 4th. Branch delegates to the Society AGM are: Mindy Brown-Lechner, Bradley Hobbs, Don MacQueen, Sharon Stewart, Donna Weidenfeller, Salina Welch, and Geoffrey Wood for seven votes. There is only a placeholder motion on the AGM ballot, which is required by Scottish law given the legal structure of the Society. Candidates for the various committees will be voted on: Management Board (13 members), 5 new members will be voted in; Education & Training (9 members), 2 new members will be voted in; Membership Service (7 members), 2 new members will be voted in; Convenors Elect will also be selected for the Membership Service Committee and the Youth Services Committee. Two new members will be voted in to the Youth Services Committee (7 members). These posts are generally three-year terms.

Book 52 will be out in spring 2018. Book 53, however, is on indefinite hold due to protests to the Society that there are too many new dances.

The High Stage (Jordanhill Stage) used at the Pleasanton Highland Gathering and Games suffered water damage as a result of the winter storms and the compromised cover must be replaced. George Nesbitt was instrumental in getting the damaged decking replaced so that the adjudications could proceed. The teachers are grateful for George's efforts. The temporary repairs to the stage decking will need to be finished with an epoxy/fiberglass coating similar to the rest of the decking. The stage was originally designed and built by Bud Wisecarver and Gene Bissell. A company in Lodi fabricated the custom cover.

Trina offered her expertise in getting the stage deck repaired. She may also have local contacts to get a cover made for the stage.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please make Don MacQueen (BC Chair and key contact for matters involving the Jordanhill stage) aware that Trina Merriman can assist in seeing that the Jordanhill stage gets properly repaired and that a new cover be made to protect the stage.

The Valentine's Ball has officially been re-named The Winter Ball. The name change was implemented to underscore that there is a new venue for this event. The February local ball will now be held at the Orchard Pavilion at Sunnyvale Community Center (550 East Remington Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087). The Scottish Rite Center, where the ball has been held since 1979, has become unaffordable given our recent lower than historic attendance. The Ball Committee investigated twenty venues before choosing the Orchard Pavilion, which was far superior to all other options.

There is still a projected loss for this ball due to additional set-up required for this hall. This is not anticipated as being a recurring additional expense once we sort out the particularities of holding our ball at this venue. Donations to support the event have been received through the membership renewal form, which should cover this loss.

Given the unique architectural features of the pavilion, setting up the sound equipment may prove challenging. Restrictions on decorations will require creative solutions. Juliet mentioned that many of the dancers in her children's class live close by and may be a resource for forgotten supplies when setting up the hall for the ball.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Kathy Allen (Winter Ball Committee) would like to borrow a few pieces of tartan fabric for decorating the dance hall. The fabric will be returned unharmed. 3 yards or more uncut fabric would be best. Please contact Kathy if you have tartan fabric to lend.

Since the Winter Ball has moved to the South Bay, hospitality offered by South Bay dancers may encourage North Bay dancers to attend the ball. Hospitality will be established by the Winter Ball Committee or their designees.

The Teachers' Committee has repeatedly remarked on the ineffectiveness of the Branch website. Members have difficulty finding the scholarship form. Class Managers and Event Chairs have difficulty using the website calendar. The photographs may not best represent the Branch. These comments have been relayed to the Branch Committee, which endeavors to improve the Branch website. Currently the Branch Committee is collecting information on what needs improving. Don MacQueen and Geoffrey Wood from the Branch Committee are spearheading this task.

The Asilomar Weekend is fully subscribed and a waiting list has been started. There is a projected loss of \$10,000 which has been offset by various fundraising activities.

Once again, the Branch will sponsor an AED/CPR (automated external defibrillator/cardiopulmonary resuscitation) workshop to certify dancers in these life-saving procedures. It was suggested that the Branch Committee keep list of AED/CPR trained members. Teachers also stated the need for a Safety Committee. In years past, there was a Safety Committee, which then became part of the Membership Committee. Since the Membership Committee rarely convenes, is there a need to revive the Safety Committee? It was also suggested that a safety advisory sheet be distributed to teachers and Class Managers for guidance in the event of earthquakes or injuries. Class Managers are routinely given this information at the annual Class Managers' meeting. All classes should have a first-aid kit ready at hand.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please recommend that the Branch Committee explore establishing a list of certified AED/CPR trained dancers as well as reviving the Safety Committee.

The next Branch Committee meeting will be on 4 November, 2017. Meeting agendas are posted on the Branch website under "Branch Resources".

Report on TAC

TAC Summer School was held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from 23 – 30 July, with the Teachers' Weekend--including the AGM, on 21 – 23 July.

At the AGM, the Area Reps requested that information about members, their interest in teaching at workshops, or offering any special areas of interest (teaching children, mentoring new teachers, etc.), be included in annual registration, and be available to the membership. The TAC Executive Committee is updating the membership form, including requesting information on the member's interest in being a workshop teacher, or other special interests.

The discussion at the AGM continued and deliberated why teachers should join TAC. Networking to learn new skills and techniques is one of the more compelling reasons.

Katherine Shearman (Membership Secretary & Subscriptions) is doing a wonderful job in her role at TAC, and will have the membership register updated and made accurate shortly. Rachel Pusey passed on the reminder that new teachers can enjoy free membership for their first year. According to the TAC website, this courtesy is extended to Part 1 (Prelim) or Part 2 (Full Certificated) teachers. Teacher candidates who have not completed all units of Part 1 are not eligible for full membership (and thus this promotion) but can apply as an associate member.

The San Francisco Branch is well represented at TAC with Sara Gratiot, Rachel Pusey and Lin Pettengill on the Executive Committee as at large members. Gary Thomas is in charge of TAC Sound

As the Society did in 2014, TAC is changing its legal structure which will require a name change. Canada law states the name of a not-for-profit association must indicate what the organization does. Given that the Teachers' Association (Canada) is well-known as TAC, the TAC name will be augmented to comply with Canadian law.

Selection of Party Program Committees

Program committee for our special dancing events are:

Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball 2018, due 15 February: Rachel, Alan, Paula (Ball Continuity Person)

Jean Patrick Memorial Dance 2018 due 15 March: Trina, Sheena, Paula (Ball Continuity Person)

The Winter Ball program committee will be decided on at the January meeting for the following year's ball.

Candidate Class 2017

Continuing the candidate's exams, Unit 1 (written paper) will be held locally on 7 October. Kathy Jorgensen, Dilip Sequeira and Geoffrey Wood, who all passed exams in May, will be sitting the Unit 1 exam.

Discuss future Teachers Workshops

Sarah Pawlowsky, a faculty member in the physical therapy department at San Francisco State University (SFSU), conducts research and workshops with dance teachers. Trina Merriman will follow-up with her for a future Teacher Workshop.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Trina, please follow-up with Sarah Pawlowsky (SFSU.UCSF) regarding further workshops and research projects related to keeping dancers healthy.

Special Topics for future Meetings

At our next meeting, on 20 January, 2018, the post-meeting seminar will focus on music players and programs to copy and control music for classes.

- ▶ **Action Item:** All, bring equipment (players, amplifiers, speakers) and questions to the January Teachers' Committee meeting.

Other Business

Discussion on Dances

No dances were brought up for resolution.

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

Featured in the October Monthly Party is The Ferry Louper by Roy Golding (24 Graded and Social Dances).

New Year Jig by Maureen Robson (RSCDS Book 51) was also suggested. There are several other dances in Book 51 which could serve well as starter jigs.

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

Other announcements

Trina reported that the Dancing Achievement Award (DAA) course and assessment will be offered again in the spring of 2018. There are three levels to the DAA: Intermediate, Advanced and Very Advanced. Fred DeMarse and Linda Henderson will teach an Advanced Class.

Studio space still needs to be found for the course, around San Francisco or Berkeley. The course will be comprised of five classes followed by the assessment.

Trina, Linda and Fred tentatively plan to offer a third DAA course in the South bay for the Intermediate level in 2019.

Juliet confirmed that she and Dwayne McQuilliams will be youth coordinators replacing Kathleen McAdam.

Classes are encouraged to participate in the adjudication at the Pleasanton Highland Gathering & Games. Expertise is not required.

It was observed at the recent adjudication that most of the dances were modern dances, which was a bit of a disappointment to some adjudicators and bystanders.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (TC Recording Secretary), please put reviving traditional dances on the May 2018 agenda.

Paula announced that the program for the Heavenly 70s party was created for intermediate dancers and above. Experienced dancers are encouraged to attend the celebratory dance on 14 October at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto (600 Colorado Avenue).

If teachers have question regarding dances, queries should be sent to the teachers' reflector and asked for private replies. Teachers@rscds-sf.org. Armin will send out message on protocol for the reflector.

Helen Russell (now Society Chair) created notes on the changes to the Manual of Scottish Country Dancing, 3rd edition. These will be scanned (Trina, Alan) and posted on the Teachers' webpage.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Trina or Alan, please scan the 3rd edition of manual changes and send them to Armin for posting.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin, please post the 3rd edition of manual changes.

Choose date and location for next meetings

20 January 2018 Kathleen McAdam

19 May, 2018 Alan Twhigg

22 September, 2018 Rachel, Juliet, Marianna volunteered

Adjourn

Proposed: Alan – that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bradley Hobbs
Recording Secretary

Follow-Up Actions

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please make Don MacQueen (BC Chair and key contact for matters involving the Jordanhill stage) aware that Trina Merriman can assist in seeing that the Jordanhill stage gets properly repaired and that a new cover be made to protect the stage.
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