



Teachers' Committee Minutes
Final

Meeting

Saturday 22 September, 2018
at the home of Rachel Pusey and Dilip Sequeira, Sunnyvale California

Present

Kathy Allen, Armin Busse, Laura Cooper, Juliet Davoren, Marianna Harvey, Linda Henderson, Bradley Hobbs, Bree Humphries, Paula Jacobson, Lin Pettengill, Dilip Sequeira, Alan Twhigg.

Regrets

Rebecca Davis, Sara Gratiot, Bruce Hamilton, Jo Hamilton, Susie Langdon Kass, Trina Merriman, Rachel Pusey, Sandee Schultz, Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace, Tim Wilson.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Armin Busse, Chair.

Edit Agenda

Revised Teaching Certificate Syllabus was taken off agenda, as it was discussed in May and there has been no new information regarding the syllabus.

Announcements

There were no Branch business announcements.

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

Proposed: Dilip - that the [19 May, 2018 Preliminary A] minutes be accepted as final.

Seconded: Alan

With one abstention, the Motion carried.

Report on Party Program Committees

The programs for December's and January's Monthly Parties are finished (Bruce Herbold, Kathy Allen, Geoffrey Wood) and will be distributed 1 October.

Programs for March and April Monthly Parties are due 1 December (Bruce Herbold, Juliet Davoren, Dilip Sequeira). May and June Monthly Party programs are due 1 February (Bruce Herbold, Laura Cooper, Sandee Schultz).

The committee briefed Bree Humphries, an experienced teacher who recently moved to our Branch, on the workings of the program committees and the structure of Monthly Party programs (<https://rscds-sf.org/teachers/SCTCdc20010104BallProgGuide.pdf>).

Other dance events were brought up, including "Home for the Holidays", the winter dance organized by young adults in the Berkeley class with outside help, which is open to dancers 15 and older (especially those dancers who have come home for the holidays). It was also noted that there is the 'Tween Party in Danville on the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Report on Future Teachers' Workshop

Trina Merriman, who is organizing a workshop to promote dancer's health, was not in attendance.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Trina, please contact Sarah Pawlowsky of the Physical Therapy Department at SFSU to make arrangements for a Teacher Workshop.

New Business

Selection of Party Program Committees

Program committees have been formed for the next two upcoming Branch events:

Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball, due 15 February 2019 Bree, Laura, Paula. Bree will host.

Jean Patrick Memorial Dance, due 15 March, 20019: Trina, Kathy, Paula

Report from BC

Bradley (TC-BC Liaison) reported that the preparatory course for the Dancer Achievement Award assessment is now an official Branch class. For the last two years, it has been classified as an event. This change to Branch class status will make it easier for coordinators to organize the course regarding renting halls, insurance, and handling deposits.

The date of the Valentine's Ball was moved from 16 February to 2 February due to a scheduling conflict with the Scottish Rite Center. The Branch was compensated \$600 for the inconvenience. Irma Novak is the Valentine's Ball Chair.

Monthly Party pricing will remain unchanged for the 2018-2019 dance year: \$18 for non-members, \$12 for members, \$6 for youth or financial hardship. As always, teachers are asked to encourage their dancers to attend the Monthly Parties.

It is important that Event organizers for Branch or Class events publicize their activities. There are channels to accomplish this. The teachers and Class Managers need to be aware of the events, and so flyers need to be distributed to them. Sharon Stewart (Class Manager Coordinator) can help facilitate this. The Teachers' reflector could be used to get word to the teachers (rscdsteachers@pettengill.org). An article in the Reel & Strathspey would also be a good idea. Witsie McKelvy takes care of the local events calendar, while Mimi Meuller handles the calendar for events beyond our Branch. Class managers and event chairs are responsible for posting their events to the Branch's online calendar.

The Branch Committee reviewed and discussed the Teachers' Committee's remarks on Etiquette and Courtesy at Branch Events (see January 2018 TC minutes). Following an unfortunate occurrence at the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance where a woman felt uncomfortable by the unwelcomed attention of a male dancer, the Branch Committee is addressing the problem of sexual harassment.

The BACDS has a Code of Conduct which is made known to their dancers. Bay Area Country Dance Society published their code of conduct in 2017, which may be a useful guide for establishing—and publicizing—our own Code of Conduct.

Teachers suggested that the Code of Conduct should be available at the welcome table at dance events and classes. A good approach to this code would be to present it as how to be an appropriate and pleasant partner. Like the BACDS document, it should contain contact information.

The Branch restriction on fragrances was brought up as well. While this policy may seem constraining, a situation was relayed which brought reason to the rule. The no-fragrance policy, as well as general etiquette guidance are detailed in the Branch's Members' Handbook.

The Branch Committee has approved funding for a new cover for the Jordanhill stage (high stage, used for the Pleasanton Highland Gathering and Games) to replace the damaged storage cover. The cover should be in place before the winter rains to protect the stage while it is in storage at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Furthermore, for the Jordanhill stage, the deck boards have weakened from twenty years of dancing upon them. There is now a considerable bounce in the stage. Different strategies for the repair of the stage deck are being considered: either flooring over the existing plywood deck or stiffening and strengthening the deck from below. Trina Merriman, who has her own boat repair business, is overseeing the stage repairs and has also arranged to have the storage cover made.

The Branch is about \$650 short of meeting the \$5000 goal for a matching donation to support Asilomar.

Please consider contributing to the Asilomar Fund. The PayPal donation URL is:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=88rQMafYoaTRCWM7yBdr-i8qennn9Ap7C912ZWlyz_Wy2osO0sgl4GM2Nu5qbGJmYs5IMm&country.x=US&locale.x=US

Greg Reznick's sound equipment and trailer have been donated to the Branch. The trailer will be registered and insured in the Branch's name with the Treasurer's address—our legal address.

Marian Stroh, who has taught in Reno, Nevada for many years, is donating her SCD books and CD's to the Branch now that she no longer teaches. There was some concern that Crystal Goodwin, who now teaches the Reno class, might best benefit from the books and CD's.

It was mentioned that Janet Hayter also has books and early Branch memorabilia to donate. Janet was one of the original members of the Branch and was also a teacher.

The Branch Committee continues to identify shortcomings of our Branch website. A meeting will be scheduled in October or November to strategize how best to move forward. The Webmaster, Larry Wakeman, will be participating in the meeting.

Members of the Branch Committee have worked with Mike Greenwood (Digital Marketing Communications Officer for the Society) and Kathrine Butler (Graphic Designer/Consultant for the Society) on revamping the Society website. Twelve branches world-wide volunteered to assist the Society in this endeavor, beta-testing the new website. The Society wishes to bring their website up-to-date and make it more responsive to the needs of Branch administrators and members alike.

Branch delegates for the Society's AGM on 3 November 2018 at Gannochy Trust Sports Complex in Perth, Scotland are:

Mindy Brown-Lechner

Bradley Hobbs

Don MacQueen

Sharon Stewart

Jamie Tanner

Donna Weidenfeller

Salina Welsh

Branch members are welcomed to contact one of the delegates if they wish to express an opinion on motion 9.1 (placeholder motion not to raise membership dues) or any of the candidates.

The Branch Committee officers remain unchanged:

Don MacQueen, Chairman

Bradley Hobbs, Vice-chairman

Sylvain Pelletier, Treasurer

Mindy Brown-Lechner, Corresponding Secretary

Sharon Stewart, Recording Secretary

Geoffrey Wood will assume the role of TC-BC Liaison from Bradley, who has moved away (but will continue as Vice-chair remotely)

Teachers are asked to encourage their dancers to volunteer for Branch positions. Please refer to the volunteer page at the back of every Reel and Strathspeyer for positions needing volunteers. There are tasks small and large which need to be covered if members expect to receive the continued benefits that the San Francisco Branch has offered.

Report on TAC

Lin Pettengill (TAC Summer Events Assistant Director) reported in Trina Merriman ((Teachers' Association (Canada) representative for the Branch)) stead.

The 2018 Summer School was held at the University of Minnesota. The facility was great, although there were problems with the heating and air conditioning system. The classrooms were cold and the ballroom was hot.

The teachers were Ellie Briscoe (Alexandria, VA), Judy Poapst (Ontario), and Antoine Rousseau (Paris, France).

The 2019 Teachers' Conference Weekend will be held at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The Teachers' Weekend is Friday, July 26 to Sunday, July 28, 2019, with Summer School continuing from 28 July to Sunday 4 August, 2019. TAC celebrates their 60th anniversary in 2019. TAC membership fees are going up to \$CAN 50 from \$CAN 35 for a one year membership which includes a digital subscription of TAC Talk.

TAC lost an estimated CAN\$170,000 due to the 2017 Summer School embezzlement. In light of the financial difficulties facing the organization, interested parties were invited to "Sponsor a Dance", id est, make a donation for a particular dance. Sponsors were honored by having their names read at the beginning of each dance's talk-through. That was a very successful process and gained \$4000 during the Teachers Weekend Ball. It was so successful that we decided to do the same thing for the Summer School Ball, the following Saturday. That was also very successful, gaining around \$13,000. Other fundraising ideas are encouraged and invited to be shared. At the September Branch Committee meeting, having been made aware of the situation, the BC approved a donation of \$5,000. Being the largest branch in the US, and the second largest in North America, the committee felt that it was important that the San Francisco Branch make this generous gift and gesture. It is hoped that other branches in the States will donate as they are able.

At the AGM, TAC's Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Procedure Manual were approved and TAC subsequently submitted an application to the Canadian authorities for non-profit status. An announcement was made at the 2018 summer school that the application had been approved. There is a slight change to the organization's legal name to Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada) to conform to Canadian law for non-profit organizations. In common usage, the Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada) will remain known as TAC.

Discuss Future Teachers' Workshops

There is interest in conducting another microphone workshop. The last time we trained teachers how to properly use the Branch's microphones was in 2014. No definite plans were made for the workshop.

Candidate Class 2019

No candidates have expressed interest, nor have any potential candidates been identified by teachers to pursue the Teacher Training course in preparation for exams in 2019. The TC will recommend not holding a Candidate Class for this cycle. The following Examiners' Tour would be in 2021.

TAC Summer School will not be offering a candidate class in 2019. Candidate classes are on even-numbered years, the examiners' tour is on odd-numbered years.

Special Topics for future Meetings

Class planning: Balance of party dances taught in classes versus challenging dances not on party or ball programs.

Other Business

TAC Summer School 2019

Teachers for TAC Summer School 2019 will be Jimmie Hill (Edinburgh), Linda Henderson, Geoffrey Selling (Pennsylvania), Moira Korus (Ontario). Reel of Seven are the featured musicians.

Lin, as TAC Summer Events Assistant Director, will advertise the TAC 2019 Summer School in the Reel & Strathspey and Scottish Country Dancer magazine.

Discussion on Dances

There were no dances from upcoming programs brought up for discussion.

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

There were no suggestions for a new starter jig.

Other announcements

The Children's Ball is scheduled for 23 March, 2019

Choose date and location for next meeting

19 January: Lin Pettengill

18 May: Marianna Harvey or Kathy Allen

21 September: TBA

Adjourn

Proposed: Lin – that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Paula

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hobbs
Recording Secretary

Follow-Up Actions

- ▶ **Action Item:** Trina, please contact Sarah Pawlowsky of the Physical Therapy Department at SFSU to make arrangements for a Teacher Workshop.