



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.

Teacher Committee Meeting Notes Saturday, January 27, 2024 Final

1. Meeting

1a Time/Place

2:00 PM, Zoom

1b Attendees

Armin Busse, Chair
Tom Ward, Secretary
Kathy Allen
Alan Twigg,
Fred DeMarse
Don MacQueen
Juliet Davoren
Paula Jacobson
Linda Henderson
Laura Cooper
Kathy Jorgenson

1c Regrets

Trina Merriman
Tim Wilson
Sandee Schultz
Dwayne McQuilliams
Mary McQuilliams
Kristi Closser
Geoffrey Wood
Bruce Herbold

2. Call to Order

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

3. Review and Adjust Agenda

The chair added the following:

Teacher Workshop discussion

Asilomar Survey

Family Classes

DAA Class(es)

Jean Patrick Ball Format

4. Old Business

4a. Review and Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting

No modifications were noted to the Draft B document.

Motion, Alan T: That we approve the prior minutes.

Seconded, Kathy A

Passed: Without objection

4b. Party Program Committee Reports

The Kim McGarrity Ball program has been drafted, approved by the musicians and Ball Chair, and has been submitted to the Asilomar Committee for final approval.

The Jean Patrick Memorial Dance program committee has not yet met.

The May/June Monthly Party Programming is done and awaiting distribution by Bruce Herbold.

5. New Business

5a. Officers

Chair: Armin B. was nominated by [?], the motion seconded by all, and passed without objection.

Secretary: Tom W. was nominated by Paula J, Alan T seconded, and passed without objection.

MP Programming Continuity: Bruce H. nominated by Fred D, seconded by Paula J, and passed without objection.

Ball Programming Continuity: Geoffrey W. nominated by Don M, seconded by Tom W, and passed without objection, pending Geoffrey's agreement to continue to serve.

TAC Representative: Trina M. nominated by Tom W., seconded by Alan T., passed without objection.

5b Party Program Committees

Armin reviewed the input from the committee members, and suggested:

Oct / Nov '24: Fred D., Kristi C., Bruce H.

Valentine's '25: Trina M., Paula J., Geoffrey W.

Dec '24 / Jan '25: Alan T., Trina M., Bruce H.

Mar / Apr '25: Kathy J., Juliet D., Bruce H.

May / Jun '25: Sandee S., Kathy J., Bruce H.

5c *Liaison with Branch Committee*

Don M. reported on progress on the new website. The hosting service has been selected and contracted. The Events and Calendar sections are going through final touch-ups. We should be ready, shortly, to do a “soft launch” to garner public comment. Paula J. requested that access to the scholarship section of the website be made clearer.

The draft “Meet the Teachers” page at <http://18.61.44.23/rscd/meet-our-teachers/> was reviewed by the Committee. A number of spelling issues were identified and Don asked that any corrections be sent to Salina Walsh. It was suggested that Marianna Harvey, Rebecca Davis, Sarah MacQueen, and Eugene Bissell should not be shown, as they are no longer actively teaching within the Branch. It was suggested that the display include the Class(es) that each Teacher is teaching.

Tom W. reported that the Branch Committee has approved a dues increase for the coming year, reflecting the £2 (\$2.50) subscription increased approved at the Society AGM, and compensating for increasing Hall rental costs. The new Adult Regular membership will increase from \$55 / year to \$59, with other categories in proportion.

No questions were posed for the Board’s consideration.

5d *Liaison with Teachers Association of Canada*

Applications for the summer school in Ontario should open soon. TAC is searching for new leadership of TACSound.

5e *Future Teacher Workshops*

Alan T. reports that Trina M. is investigating whether Ron Wallace would be willing to run, for the Branch’s Teachers, the workshop he prepared and delivered at TAC Summer School 2023. This might be a stand-alone event or melded onto another Branch activity. These details are to be worked out once we have agreement on what the workshop will entail.

Trina M. also suggested a “microphone workshop”. Tom W. suggested that this be accompanied by an “EMCceeing” element. It was suggested that this be a fallback of the above plan does not come through, or that it be set for 2025.

5f *Ball Guidelines*

The committee, under the direction of Bruce H., has not yet convened to review the document.

6. Additional Items

6a *Asilomar Survey*

Armin B. shared an email provided by Sheena MacQueen:

In case I do not get to report in person: Asilomar Weekend Workshop Evaluation Survey

Included one comment on the need for teachers to teach people how to dance in a crowded room.

We received several comments on how some dancers have an inflated sense of their dancing ability but that is not under the control of the committee.

It did not include any comments about us being unfriendly— well done. I think we can still encourage our dancers to mix at parties and balls, as well as Asilomar Weekend Workshop.

6b *Family Classes*

Kathy A. wishes to start offering a Family Class, and wanted direction on any special rules that might apply to teaching children and adults at the same time. Juliet D. suggested consulting the Branch's "Guidelines for Children Dancing in the San Francisco Branch" from 2003. Don M. has the document and will distribute it to the Committee for reference.

6c *Jean Patrick Memorial Dance Format*

Tom W. reported that the Branch Committee would like to host a volunteer appreciation event. After a number of options were considered, and some informal polling was done by Jamie Tanner, it was suggested that we modify one of our standing events for this purpose. One major challenge is running a volunteer appreciation event without adding a burden to volunteers who run the event. The Branch Committee decided to modify the Jean Patrick dance to have two sets of dances instead of three, and to use the available time slot for a catered food service of some sort. Tom W., as event chair, has not worked on the details, but will start doing so soon. The JPMD programming committee should target a ten-dance program instead of a 15-dance program.

6d *DAA Classes*

Fred D. would like to run a Basic Dance Achievement Award class in 2024. We have certified examiners in the Branch. The Teacher's Committee supports this. Fred D. was directed to start working on details and a budget to be submitted to the Branch Committee with funding, and to consult with Mark Burt to find a suitable place.

Paula J. pointed out that Scholarship Funds can be used to pay for people's attendance at their request.

6e *Steve Wyrick Remembrance*

Julie Wyrick asked that the instructions for the dances at the Remembrance, scheduled for March 24, be distributed to the Teachers so that they could be incorporated into Classes.

6f *Featured Devisors*

Geoffrey W. and Tom W. will hold their first Featured Devisor class on March 16, with dances by John Bowie Dickson. Tom would like to include some female devisors and is considering Elaine Bruncken. Kathy A. also suggested Jean Atwood as a good source.

7. **Wrap-up**

7a *Next Meetings*

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2024, at 1:30 PM. This is Mother's Day, but this was not felt to be a conflict for those attending.

Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2024 and Saturday, January 18, 2025.

7b *Call for Adjournment*

Motion, Paula J.: That the meeting adjourn.

Seconded: Tom W.

Passed: Without objection

Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

