



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.

Teacher Committee Meeting Notes Sunday, June 9, 2024 Final

1. Meeting

1a Time/Place

2:06 PM, Zoom

1b Attendees

Armin Busse, Chair
Tom Ward, Secretary
Kathy Allen
Alan Twigg,
Fred DeMarse
Juliet Davoren
Paula Jacobson
Trina Merriman
Kathy Jorgenson
Geoffrey Wood
Sara Gratiot
Bruce Herbold

1c Regrets

Don MacQueen
Linda Henderson
Laura Cooper
Tim Wilson
Santee Schultz
Dwayne McQuilliams
Mary McQuilliams
Kristi Closser

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 PM by Armin Busse, Chair

3. Review and Adjust Agenda

No adjustments were made.

4. Old Business

4a. Review and Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting

It was found that the Draft minutes from January had the wrong years in the list of Party Program Committee Assignments. Secretary to correct the minutes.

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

Seconded, Paula

Passed: Without objection

4b. Party Program Committee Reports

The Jean Patrick Memorial Dance program is complete.

The Kim McGarrity Ball program is complete.

Valentines' Ball 2025 Programming will get underway, with Paula J and Trina M on the committee, sometime in the summer months.

4c. Revision of Ball and Party Programming Guidelines

The committee has not yet met. They have promised to get a draft (“piñata”) version of a document for review at the next TC meeting. Tom W suggested that it can be placed for review on the Branch’s Google Workspace Drive, with “View” links sent to TC members. Trina M requested that reasons for revisions should accompany the draft document.

5. New Business

5a Liaison with Branch Committee

Tom W reported in lieu of the regular liaison, Don M.

The website is up and running but not complete. The developer is currently working on the membership database and resources page, which should be ready “soon”. It was pointed out that the “Meet the Teachers” page includes Teachers not active in the Branch: Rebecca Davis, Lin Pettengill, Gene Bissell, Kristi Closser, and Sarah MacQueen. Tom W to suggest to web team that they be deleted.

Concern has been expressed about the safety of dancers, with a number of recent incidents of stepping-on-toes and minor collisions reported. The BC asked that the Teachers undertake to reinforce dancer safety in the Branch’s Classes. The committee agreed that this would be prudent; the Chair to communicate our concerns to the list of active Class teachers.

It was suggested that dancer safety be expanded upon at the next revision of the Branch’s Guidance and Courtesy of Dancers document. Sara G, with Trina M’s support, offered to look at the current wording and offer a draft improvement. Kathy A will check with Jamie Tanner about a document developed for the San Jose Class.

Concern was expressed within the TC that people with issues at parties did not know how to make their concerns known and have them addressed. It was suggested that the best policy would be to suggest that any issues be

reported to the event emcees, as they are the most visible. There was a concern that this might add to their burden on the evening, but they would probably have the best chance of finding a path to a resolution.

The Branch's Venue Coordinator, Mark Burt, is seeing major venue rental increases and loss of access to some halls, such as Mountain View Masonic. He is looking for new venues. He expects to have to use venues with more restrictions on late-night music, so party start times may have to be shifted a bit earlier.

Armin to confirm whether Don M is willing to continue as BC-TC liaison.

No questions were posed for the Board's consideration.

5b *Liaison with Teachers Association of Canada*

Trina M reported that TAC is getting ready for Summer School at St. Catherine's. There are still some openings and Teachers are encouraged to encourage attendance. Financial aid is available from TAC and from the Branch scholarship fund.

At the last Annual General Meeting, Ward Fleri presented TAC's new Strategic Plan, which is now rolling out. Trina can make it available to those who wish to see it.

Trina has taken on the role of Membership Coordinator for TAC.

5c *Future Teacher Workshops*

Fred D reports that he is coordinating with Ron Wallace and the Asilomar Committee to have him present the workshop on gender-neutral terminology that he gave at TAC at the 2024 Asilomar workshop. Trina is in discussion with Ron W about presenting his workshop on using live music in teaching, but this is in early stages.

One of the Asilomar teachers regularly uses gender-neutral terminology in dance instruction. Fred D reports that he suggested prudence and caution on this issue, as the Branch may not be quite ready, sociologically, to move in that direction.

6. Additional Items

6a *Party Partnering*

Bruce H reported, with alarm, a high degree of pressure being placed on people to join dance sets at the June monthly party. He wanted to reinforce with emcees that they should put a sharp limit on set completion efforts and should reconfigure sets to conform to the number of dancers who actively want to dance. There was unanimiy in the committee on this issue.

6b *Ceilidh Classes*

Tom W and Juliet D reported that Salina Walsh is actively pursuing the establishment of a Ceilidh-type class, potentially at UC Santa Cruz, in the coming months. The Branch Committee is supportive of this effort as a new avenue for recruitment, especially of younger people, into SCD.

6c *Advanced Dance Classes*

Kevin Lesko is actively pursuing organization of classes for advanced dancing and technique, likely on Saturdays in Berkeley or nearby. Kevin has done some outreach that indicates a strong desire for such, separate from the demonstration team track. The Branch Committee is supportive of this effort as an additional avenue for retention and recruitment.

6d *Dance Difficulty Designations*

Sara G reported some inconsistency in how dances are labeled for difficulty. Bruce H reports that the programming committees include these ratings as programs are disseminated and will make sure that all programs include this and that the information is distributed to all those concerned. Salina Walsh has taken up the task of making the dance diagram sheets, and individual class managers are responsible for making up the wall posters.

7. **Wrap-up**

7a *Next Meetings*

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 2:00 PM on Zoom.

Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2025 and May 24, 2025.

7b *Call for Adjournment*

Motion, Bruce H.: That the meeting adjourn.

Seconded: Trina M

Passed: Without objection

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.