



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.

Teacher Committee Meeting Notes Saturday, September 28, 2024 Draft

1. Meeting

1a Time/Place

2:00 PM, via Zoom Call

1b Attendees

Armin Busse, Chair
Tom Ward, Secretary
Kathy Allen
Trina Merriman
Alan Twigg,
Don MacQueen
Sheena MacQueen
Kristi Closser
Juliet Davoren
Paula Jacobson
Laura Cooper
Sara Gratiot
Kathy Jorgensen
Bruce Herbold

1c Regrets

Linda Henderson
Fred DeMarse
Tim Wilson
Santee Schultz
Dwayne McQuilliams
Mary McQuilliams
Geoffrey Wood
Bradley Hobbs

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:

Feedback on Adjudication at the Pleasanton Games

Musicians Training

4. Old Business

4a. Review and Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting

No modifications were noted to the Draft A document.

Motion, Alan T: That we approve the prior minutes with the typo in Item 6b corrected.

Seconded, Trina M.

Passed: Without objection

4b. Party Program Committee Reports

October '24 and November '24 are complete.

December '24 and January '25 are complete.

Kim McGarrity program is complete.

Valentines' Ball is complete.

5. New Business

5a Party Programming Committees

Based on Armin's survey of the Teachers, the following participants were identified:

Kim McGarrity '25: Sandee S. and Trina M.

Jean Patrick '25: Trina M. and Kristi C.

5b Future Teachers' Workshops

Trina M. reports that this is still a work in progress, with a possible date later in 2024.

5c Liaison with Branch Committee

The Branch Committee has requested guidance from the Teachers' Committee on ways to enhance physical safety for dancers in Classes and at Events. The Branch Committee prefers not to dictate to Classes how they should be run. It was suggested that the BC check to see what the Teacher's Training Manual has with regard to this issue. Bruce H. suggested that the BC should consider leading this effort.

The Branch Committee has received a proposal from Kevin Lesko for the formation of an Advanced Technique Class to be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month starting in November. The Branch Committee has approved the concept and will take up the issue of making this a "Branch Class" at the next BC meeting on October 5.

5d *Liaison with Teachers Association of Canada*

Trina M. reports that TAC has increased its focus on Teacher Development for the last couple years and expects to continue. TAC's finances are healthier, but debt remains to be resolved. Trina met with Youth Program coordinators for TAC and for the Toronto Branch. Trina will propose to the Branch Committee that the Branch establish and support such a role, with a view to re-establishing strong youth participation. Headquarters is hosting a Youth Weekend in Boston.

There was a large class of Teacher candidates at the summer workshop. Ron Wallace was co-opted as an extra tutor to help with the effort. Ethan Bailey and Michael Gregg both passed their Unit 2/3 exams.

5e *Ball Guidelines*

Bruce H. and Sara G. have been working on the Guidelines. A first draft has been sent to Geoffrey W. for review and comment. One area of investigation is the grading of dances. The Branch uses five levels of difficult: Basic, Basic/Intermediate, Intermediate, Intermediate/Advanced, and Advanced. Bruce has asked for feedback from the TC on the effectiveness of this approach. Is it adequate? Is it too finely divided? Is the intent clear?

6. **Additional Items**

6a *Feedback on Adjudication at Pleasanton Games*

Trina M. reported that she thought it went well.

Sheena M. reported that the adjudicators were very thorough. They recognized what we had worked on and were polite in identifying areas requiring additional effort.

Kristi C. reported that it was well done this year and for the last couple years. Specificity is important, and she saw that in adjudicators' reviews.

Sheena suggested that the Teachers who had adjudicated dancers be surveyed for comments on their experience and the experience of their students.

Paula suggested that adjudicator critiques should include comments on the appropriateness of music selected for each performance.

6b *Musicians' Workshops*

Juliet D. reports that Santa Cruz Class has been having open band nights. Redwood Music Camp focused on playing for dancing. Interest in playing for dancing is increasing and Juliet inquired whether funding was available to support the Redwood Music Camp in providing a place for training. Trina M. reports that work on preparing final definitions for the uses of the Mark DeLemos is still in progress, and she will investigate whether this is an appropriate use of the Fund.

6c *Interest in Teaching'*

Sheena reported that one of her students is interested in becoming a Teacher. Alan T. will reach out to the candidate to help. Kristi C. asked whether the Branch could offer scholarships to attend Teacher Training at TAC. Paula J. will revert.

6d *Featured Devisor 2025*

Tom W. reported that he and Geoffrey W. will conduct four Featured Devisor classes in 2025, with a target schedule of fourth Saturdays in February thru May. Details to follow. The FD Class will likely be formalized as a Branch Class at the next Branch Committee meeting on October 5.

7. Wrap-up

7a *Next Meetings*

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 18th, 2025, at 2:00 PM (1:30 PM Social).

Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Sunday, May 25th, 2025, and Saturday, September 20th, 2025. The shift of the May meeting to Sunday is to avoid conflict with the probable Featured Devisor Class.

7b *Call for Adjournment*

Motion, ??: That the meeting adjourn.

Seconded: ??

Passed: Without objection

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.