



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.

## Teacher Committee Meeting Notes January 24, 2026 Draft A

### 1. Meeting

#### 1a Time/Place

2:00 PM, Zoom

#### 1b Attendees

Armin Busse, Chair  
Tom Ward, Secretary  
Sara Gratiot  
Alan Twigg,  
Kathy Jorgensen  
Don MacQueen  
Juliet Davoren  
Paula Jacobson  
Kathy Allen  
Geoffrey Wood  
Bruce Herbold  
Sandra Schultz  
Trina Merriman

#### 1c Regrets

Linda Henderson  
Kristi Closser  
Laura Cooper  
Bradley Hobbs  
Fred DeMarse  
Tim Wilson  
Dwayne McQuilliams  
Mary McQuilliams

### 2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by Armin Busse, Chair

### **3. Review and Adjust Agenda**

Alan added Teacher Training to Other Business

Bruce added RSCDS Autumn Gathering Dances to New Business

Armin highlighted need to elect officers and TAC representative as regular scheduled business

### **4. Old Business**

#### **4a. Review and Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting**

No modifications were noted to the Draft A document.

*Motion, Sara:* That we approve the prior minutes.

*Passed:* Without objection

#### **4b. Party Program Committee Reports**

Programs for the March, April, May and June parties are complete.

Bruce raised a concern about the different rhythms for preparation of Monthly Party programs and the publication of the Reel & Strathspeyer, which comes every three months. He suggested shifting the programming by altering how the months are paired up in the schedule, as follows:

June & October, due 2/1, April R&S

November & December, due 8/1, July R&S

January & March, due 10/1, October R&S

April & May, due 12/1, January R&S

*Motion, Armin:* That we adjust the grouping of the party programming efforts with due dates as indicated.

*Second, Geoffrey*

*Passed:* Without objection

Tom raised the issue of programming for the Games Party on Labor Day Weekend. There was some discussion about the history of the basis of programming. Sara clarified that the program was largely reflected dances that people were familiar with from the winter and spring MPs, which also happened to be reflected in the program for the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance. Geoffrey volunteered to include the GP programming in the effort associated with the JPMD programming, as it needs to be about the same time and has some similar sources. He will check with the JPMD programming committee to make sure this is OK.

Tom advised that David Mostardi has accepted the task of Band Leader for the JPMD, and he will coordinate with Geoffrey on music/dance coordination in the program.

#### **4c Teachers Committee Officers**

Sole volunteers for the officer slots were as follows:

**Chair:** Armin

**Secretary:** Tom

**Monthly Planning Coordination:** Bruce

**Ball Planning Coordination:** Geoffrey

This slate was passed without objection.

Trina was the sole volunteer to for the role of TAC Representative, and her role was confirmed with objection.

#### **4d**     *Teacher's Workshop*

Kathy provided a link to all of the videos of workshops presented at TAC Summer Schools. This is an open YouTube Channel run by TAC:

<https://www.youtube.com/@teachersassociationofcanad3467/videos>

### **5.     New Business**

#### **5a**     *Liaison with Branch Committee*

Don MacQueen reporting, but nothing significant to report.

Tom reported on attending a Society presentation on the new branding initiative. Sometime this Spring the Society will launch a new Website and a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The CRM will be useable by all Branches worldwide to manage memberships and related information. The new Website will be built on the same WordPress platform as the Branch website. The Society hopes to offer templates that can be used by Branches and Classes to building their own websites.

#### **5b**     *Liaison with Teachers Association of Canada*

Trina Merriman reporting.

Strategic Plan subcommittees are continuing their work, probably still one to two years from completion.

TAC has cleared the debt incurred by its financial troubles.

The 2026 Summer Workshops will be in Medicine Hat, Alberta, with the Teachers' Workshop July 24-26 and the Dancing July 27 to August 2. Candidate classes will be offered. Logistics of getting people to Medicine Hat are still under discussion. [Editor's note: Calgary (YYC) is about a three-hour drive from Medicine Hat (YXH). There is one (1) daily flight on WestJet on a small Dash8 twin turboprop between YYC and YXH.]

#### **5c**     *Autumn Gathering Dances as a Branch Program*

Bruce reported:

RSCDS asked SF Branch to create a program for the Society AGM Ball, reflecting the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the SF Branch.

Bruce led the creation of a program largely based on SF Branch-originating dances. In this process, through examination of Strathspey Database Lists, that our Branch's dances are incredibly popular worldwide.

The program was very well received at the AGM Ball, according to attendees.

It was proposed that Autumn AGM dances might be the basis of a dance program within the Branch.

Bruce has prepared a subset of ten dances that could be used for the Asilomar Friday night welcome dance, and has submitted this to the Asilomar Committee for their consideration.

Bruce proposes having the Autumn AGM program be the basis of either the May (Hayward) or June (Palo Alto) Monthly Parties. Standing programs for those parties would be shifted one month into the future.

Initial Straw Poll:

*Motion, Bruce:* That we replace either the May or June MP programs with an Autumn AGM-based program.  
*Votes:* 5 Aye, 4 Nay, 4 Abstention

Further discussion ensued. Issues included:

June MP has an early curfew.

June MP can be on a warm evening.

A long program with two breaks instead of three should be coordinated with musicians.

May MP is relatively easy, and, being in Aptos, is crafted to encourage beginners from that area to attend. Sandra confirmed that Bruce's proposal was in mind when planning the May and June MP programs.

Branch Committee: Tom (Branch Chanir) confirmed that the Branch Committee does not have to be consulted on this, as it is a matter of dance programming, which is a responsibility of the Teachers' Committee.

Revote:

*Motion, Bruce:* That we replace either the May or June MP programs with an Autumn AGM-based program, with Bruce making a final recommendation on which month following comments from Teachers and other stakeholders.

*Votes:* 7 Aye, 2 Nay, 5 Abstention, with some leaning "aye"

The motion passed. Teachers are invited to send Bruce any comments on which month to replace, and on other issues related to the structure of the program. Bruce will make a final recommendation by January 31.

#### **5d Party Programming Committees**

Armin presented the results of polling of the Teachers as to their preferred roles in planning sessions. After discussion and consensus-building, the following programming teams were identified:

Nov / Dec, due 8/1: Trina, Sandra, Bruce  
Jan / Mar, due 10/1: Alan, Juliet, Bruce  
Apr / May, due 12/1: Kathy J, Armin, Bruce  
Jun / Oct, due 2/1: Kristi, Kathy J, Bruce  
Valentines, due 8/15: Trina, Juliet, Geoffrey

#### **5e Teacher Training**

Alan has been fielding requests, and hints of requests, for Members wanting to start Teacher Training. He suggests that Teachers ask their Class Members to express interest if it exists. Tom reports that a budget is available for hall rental and related expenses. Alan will continue to work on this and think about Teacher Teaching. A minimum of five candidates is required to have an examiner come out from Scotland.

### **6. Additional Items**

#### **6a Suggested Monthly Dances**

Bruce has started a Strathspey Database List for people to add suggestions for Monthly Party dances, at:

<https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/60390/>

**6b**     *Fred Macondray*

Alan advised that Fred Macondray, one of the Branch's founding Members and Teachers, had passed away. Tom will see if Kathleen MacAdam can provide material for an R&S entry.

**6c**     *Teacher Qualifications*

Tom raised the Website listing of Ethan Bailey as a Teacher of the Santa Rosa Monday class. Ethan has completed his Preliminary training only. Per the Bylaws, people with Preliminary training cannot be standalone Teachers of Branch Classes. Tom will consult with Gary Thomas, the SR class manager, to make sure the listing on the Website, the Bylaws, and Ethan's teaching role are in alignment.

**7.**     **Wrap-up**

**7a**     *Next Meetings*

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026 (weekend after Memorial Day). Tom and Don report that they will be unavailable. Kathy Allen volunteered to take notes for Tom to write up afterward.

Subsequent meetings are scheduled for:

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Saturday, January 23, 2027

**7b**     *Call for Adjournment*

*Motion, Bruce:* That the meeting adjourn.

*Seconded Paula:*

*Passed:* Without objection

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.