

RSCDS Boston Branch

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 7:15pm

Attendees: Linda, Emily, Kat, Marsha, Anne, Connie, Ted, Cathy, David

Location: Zoom
for Zoom access use link in email OR call: 617 417 1621

Agenda

1. Minutes from the previous meeting
approved with corrections
2. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - \$90 "campers fee" was a couple who pulled out of 2023, stopped a check which cost the Branch \$10, so we rolled over their \$100 deposit less the \$10.
 - otherwise looks about as expected for this time in October
 - 2022-2023 fiscal year had a small shortfall
 - losses from Highland Ball, Pinewoods Scottish (camp wasn't full)
 - unclear how to report Pinewoods ESCape: should Square fee be an administrative expense, or a program cost? - Cathy and Daniel settled on considering a program cost, so moved \$401 of Square fees (3% credit card charge, though Square is actually 2.9% + 30c fixed) from administrative to ESCape, hence small deficit
 - scholarship came from CDS
 - what are the 2 columns under 2023? first line is revenue, underneath is total expenses, to the right is net (revenue less expenses)
 - we need a dance called "Treasurer's Report" to make this more interesting!
3. Class liaison reports
 - a. Brunswick: fall dance party was a great success, thanks to all who came; one new member joined in the fall
 - b. Kennebunck: slow start, have to check each week to make sure enough will come
 - c. Greenland: struggling with location, previous church venue has changed to have to pay in advance which is hard because they often cancel class; looking for a new location

- d. Belfast: new location (on the calendar), getting a good number of dancers
- e. Bucksport: having a Halloween party
- f. Nashua: also struggling with numbers, checking each week; going ahead with plans for New Years dance
- g. Great Barrington: about the same, canceling about half the time (fortunately studio doesn't charge for cancelations)
- h. Northampton: reminded class about membership, have had 5 couples for the last 2 weeks
- i. Albany: excited about finding a new hall, will hold Fall Frolic (Nov 4) there instead of Lois' house, with 35 dancers registered and Peter MacFarlane and Beth Murray playing; Hallowe'en costume party this Sunday (hybrid)
- does Lois want a music subsidy? - hasn't formally asked, Ted will ask; subsidy pre-approved by vote
- j. Lancaster: nothing as usual (not actually Branch sponsored)
- k. Fairlee: no report
- l. Cambridge: humming along as usual; 1st Monday of the month still masked, last Monday of the month still Zoomed with a handful of participants; planning winter party
- m. question from Kat about starting a new gender-neutral class in Camberville area, hall rental is much cheaper with insurance; can they say they'll have Branch insurance? expect likely to get 4 Branch members dancing; still sorting out days and times in addition to location
- n. Bedford: dancing as usual, one member dancing on a new hip replacement
- o. Stowe: had first class, planning for second in October
- p. Chelmsford: held first class, inquiries from new dancers; 5 couples in October
- q. Salem: on break because Salem is crazy in October, starting up Nov 2; as of end of September, still had not packed up Veronica's Attic, not sure if there is more recent movement on that; masks no longer officially encouraged (already updated on website)
- Mary Ellen interested in help from publicity committee

- how big is Veronica's Attic? we don't know; where is it going to what purpose? we don't know
- Benefit Ball Dec. 2 (class event, not a Branch event)

4. Scheduled business

- SAGM announcement to circulate.
 - Summer's End affiliated: Cathy talked to Roberta, and they don't want to stay affiliated rather than sponsored (so that they don't have to submit budget); potential problem with next year's dates so unclear what will happen
 - in the future we'll need to discuss whether they can still use our insurance
 - Linda contacting folks who will present
 - those attending in person reminded to please bring refreshments
- Zoom link - John will take care of this
- Delegates and ballot for HQ AGM –Linda, Alena, Marsha, Cathy, and Jeremy? Everybody has instructions?
 - Linda and Cathy got instructions, Marsha thinks she got it; Linda will follow up with Jeremy
 - two contested elections (sort of... management board is 4 people running for 3 3-year terms, and 1 2-year term; can only vote for 3)
 - Cathy plans to vote for Eileen Yates from North Carolina for Youth Services
 - articles of association, and rules and procedures changes seem mostly editorial and non-controversial
 - update “chairman” to “chair” (good)
 - more leeway for people to participate in as many Branches as they wish
 - if anyone else wants to recommend how to vote, let delegates know
 - votes must be placed by this Saturday (28th)
 - HQ raising dues next July

5. Optional reports from liaisons

a. Teaching & Music Committee (Kat)

- Susie volunteered to help with admin for Branch Zoom account (will pass on this offer to Alena)
- Highland Ball 2024 - band and hall confirmed for Welcome Dance (Torrent); band and hall confirmed for main event (Mara Shea + company); MCs confirmed for main event (Keira, ?, and Ted); Brunch at Marc and Keira's; MaryEllen and Sharon have a lot of ideas on publicity
- any concerted effort around hospitality for Ball? - will check about this; typically has a question on ticket form
- Pinewoods 2024: working on non-dance staff (e.g. Roberta); PCI budget up 6.5% to \$66/person/night, working that into budget; would like to know when Exec needs budget - now scheduled for Jan 31; ESCape wants to present Jan 3 (so that they can open registration in Jan); will ask Ball to bring budget for end of November
- Catherine Miller has lined up a bunch of musicians, has asked Katy McNally and Neil Pearlman and will know by end of month
- would like to start conversation about Covid protocols with Exec sooner - to publicize early on
 - PCI is very committed to making sure crew do not get infected, would be shocked if Pinewoods does not have some protocols
 - let's discuss this also at Jan 31 though we don't need to have a final decision
- we believe in Policies and Procedures that only full-time (paid) staff can bring kids to Pinewoods (not e.g. first aid person who is comped)
- would like a statement affirmatively supporting gender-neutral language: "As Pinewoods chairs we would find it helpful if the Branch would affirmatively support Branch classes which are considering using some form of gender neutral language when describing dances. This has been a recent point of conflict at Pinewoods for several years now, and it would ease the conflict if Branch members were more familiar with these styles of calling and gained experience with them outside of Pinewoods, and if the Branch at a

whole were explicitly committed to inclusiveness in how we use language around gender. We note that other branches in our area, including NJ and DelVal, have been actively practicing gender free calling to varying extents for some time and it's a bit embarrassing for the event's host branch to be behind the curve.”

- Susie’s proposal for workshop in using gender-neutral terms (Jan/Feb)
- enthusiastically approved!
- Zoom component, maybe one musician in a hall, 2 hours
- TMC discussed gender-neutral terminology in general

b. Interlude: Statement about gender-neutral calling

- amend “reimposes” to “imposes” in 2nd line
- discussion that we don’t want to mandate anything in particular; some classes don’t have much interest in changing terminology, others don’t have much exposure or confidence
- suggestion to add a sentence along the lines of “we look forward to a future where everyone feels both included and comfortable”, making the aspiration a little stronger
- suggestion to poll the general Membership about where they are on terminology
- topic has also come up in Pinewoods evaluations, and teacher meetings
- for Branch events, ask that when program is released, also state what calling terminology will be used (but this shouldn’t be in the current statement, maybe a question for future discussion, and TMC is already talking about it too
- read at SAGM and put on website
- dance culture guidelines were put on website alongside alcohol policy etc.
- maybe also on Facebook (with public comments disabled)? Tartan Times?

c. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha)

- preparing to perform at fall concert; rehearsing at Armory (different room)

d. Highland Ball (Marsha) Ball Budget to be submitted for ~~Jan~~ 3rd Nov. meeting

- it’s already been said

- e. Nominating Committee (Marsha)
 - Linda and Alena are up for re-election, and David's and Ted's terms are up; Linda is willing to stand again; think about possibilities
- f. Fall 2023 Concert (Linda)
 - please encourage people to come!
- g. ESCape (Connie)
 - in good shape with hiring staff, just a couple more outstanding; Jen Schoonover will be Scottish teacher, Elizabeth and Ben Anderson as Scottish musicians
- h. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Kat)
 - already said under TMC
- i. Membership (Anne)
 - 126 memberships so far, 162 people (Cathy says 163)
 - Peter and Anne still working out a few things with the database
 - Exec is behind on renewing membership!
 - Life Members - there are none extant and we are deleting that category
 - anyone under 24, HQ needs a full DOB which we do not ask for, not sure how to handle this (suggestion: ask nicely, and if they don't respond, make something up)
- j. Website (David) or Calendar (Marsha) –whose bailiwick?
 - Additions to calendar—events hosted by other Branches? How to include?
 - Unified presentation—or bifurcated?
 - Ways to display and encourage members to consult the calendar
 - website / calendar (Ted, David, Marsha) will come up with some proposals to come back next meeting
 - proposal from Cathy to create another standing Committee for marketing and publicity (Tartan Times, Calendar, website, publicity, recruiting members, etc), rather than just a subcommittee
 - would be a change in the by-laws that needs to be voted on; we'll consider this further for May AGM

- k. Equipment (Connie)
 - nothing
- l. Publicity and Social Media (Alena)
 - Did anyone ask Jeremy to participate?
 - informally, Kat asked and he said yes
 - Alena to schedule brainstorming session?
 - Cathy will send around a quote for using Mailchimp software (can embed in e-mail calendar, etc)
- m. Loon Mountain Games (3rd weekend Sept) (Marsha)
 - nothing
- n. Bookstore (Emily)
 - Laurie will be ordering 8-10 more copies of book 53 since last batch sold out
- o. Tartan Times (Emily/Linda)
 - Evolving design and delivery method—fewer borders? Mail-chimp?
 - pasting into body of e-mail? but don't want to overload readers with little storage, attachments are usually better
 - Recommendations from readers?
- p. Class Liaisons

6. Continuing business?:

7. Next Meeting November 29, 2023 7:15

Optional reports: Archives (Emily);

