

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston, MA Inc.

Monday June 5, 2023, 7:45 PM
Canadian American Club, 202 Arlington Street, Watertown, MA
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or mail: Alena Taylor, 238 Lynn St., Peabody, MA 01960

MINUTES

Attendance: approximately 17 via Zoom and 40 members in person.

1. Minutes of the SAGM, Nov. 14, 2022 (Alena) – approved.
2. Election results (Alena) – Anne Johnson and Kat Dutton were elected to the executive board.
3. Treasurer’s interim report (Cathy)
 - a. Within the last year, we have seen a 3.6% increase in revenue and 4% increase in membership.
 - b. membership dues have increased a bit due to headquarter fees.
 - c. There will be another membership increase of 4.5% for the upcoming year. Associate member fee will be \$25. Currently there are 17 associate members. Thank you benefactor members!
 - d. Administrative expenses have risen due to the popularity of Square for electronic payments, and \$350 will be added for the upcoming year’s tax preparation.
4. SDCEA report and class awards (Kendra)
 - a. \$815 in scholarships were given in the last year.
 - b. The Scholarship dance went well.
 - c. There is a new opening on the SDCEA committee – please talk to Kendra if interested.
5. Membership (Peter O.)
 - a. Small increase in branch members.
 - b. Looking for a replacement Membership Chair. Executive committee to work with Peter and Mary to create a job description.
6. Mailing List (John C) – no report currently.
7. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Alena read notes from Laura)
 - a. This year the Boston Scottish Country Dancers performed at the Dance for World Community festival, the fall concert, and NEFFA. We also had a gig at a senior living facility in Lexington.
 - b. We’re looking into more community performance opportunities and are actively recruiting new members. Please contact Andy Taylor-Blenis or Laura DeCesare for more information.
8. Teaching and Music Committee (Debbie J.)
 - a. The committee participated in and organized quite a few events. Thank you to the Boston Branch Highland Ball! Looking forward to Pinewoods Camp! Pinewoods Reel is in Book 53! Gender terms in constant discussion. Great team!
9. Tartan Times (Barbara)
 - a. Barbara is stepping down after 10 years on June 30th. Cathy Fahey plans a make-over to 4x per year, more articles, less events. Next edition to go out September 1st. The current edition is available on the branch website. We will create a history or archive library of past editions.

10. Website (Meyers)
 - a. Busy year! NH Highlands has been changed to Summer's End.
 - b. Members Only section has been updated: minutes, by-laws, and policies are now in the Branch Documents section. The directory and musicians list is still password protected and the site is now secure (https)
 - c. Website visitor in the last few years: 2016=8k visits, 2021=20k, 2023=25k visits per month, and 44% of visitors viewed the photo gallery.
11. Calendar (Jeremy)
 - a. Please send any events for the calendar to Jeremy via email.
12. Equipment (Thom) – no report
13. Bookstore (Laurie) – no report
14. Pinewoods Camp, Inc. (Bruce)
 - a. Renaming of dance pavilions are as follows – C# is now Hands Across. C# Minor is now Pine Hollow.
 - b. Camp will remove diseased trees. The damage to Hands Across over the winter has been fixed. They are now milling lumber on site for maintenance and repairs. The bathroom behind Hands Across will not be finished by summer. Next year Pine Needles will need repair.
 - c. Centennial in 2025 – stay tuned!
15. Fall Concert 2022 (Linda)
 - a. Artistically a huge success! Thank you to webmasters for helping us make it as simple as possible to purchase tickets.
 - b. Financially the profit of \$113 was split with the branch and Alistair & Natalie.
 - c. Ticketleap was embraced and will be used again. The museum was more expensive and the attendance for the evening show was around 50%.
 - d. The fall 2023 concert will be Sunday November 12th at 3:00 PM at the Arts at the Armory in Somerville.
16. Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2022 (MaryEllen)
 - a. Well attended. There were still 5 sets at the end of the evening! The Sally Dee memorial was well received. Thank you to the branch for lending cash towards expenses. \$300 was donated to Pinewoods.
 - b. The 2023 Pinewoods Benefit Ball will be held the 1st Saturday of December at Old Town Hall in Salem, MA
17. Highland Ball 2023 (Elizabeth A.)
 - a. Welcome dance and brunch dance were wonderful. Saturday attendance was 86 dancers with 15 dances, which worked well.
 - b. There was a financial shortfall of less than \$200. Many thanks to the volunteers and members!
 - c. The next Highland Ball will be May 11th, 2024 with Sharon Gilmore and MaryEllen Scannell as ball chairs.
18. Autumn Gathering (November 3-5,2023, delegates invited) in Glasgow - FYI
19. Branch Class reports
 - Bedford, MA (Heather) – newest group

Cambridge, MA (Alex) – danced the entire year. Masks were mandatory most of the year. Now 1st Monday is mandatory, other weeks are mask optional. Several sets and new dancers. Live music. Thank you to teachers and musicians. Ice cream social on June 26th – mask optional.

Chelmsford, MA (Rebecca) – 10th year celebration! 1 to 2 sets regularly attend with many new dancers. Live music, mask-recommended. Class party is August 12th.

Great Barrington, MA (Ted) – Influx of new dancers, with an average of 6-8 dancers per week. Vaccinations and masks optional.

Northampton, MA (Ted) – 1st time in 3 years held a tea dance. 10 couples in attendance. Class numbers are trending up. Masks optional.

Salem, MA (MaryEllen) – Church building is out of order. Class is now being held at Purple Door Yoga. Plan to launch membership drive this coming year.

Stow, MA (Vickery) – Mostly mask optional. Often has live music.

Greenland, NH (Merrill) – Began in-person in October. Vaccinations required, masks mostly optional, 1 or 2 classes per month.

Nashua, NH – no report

Lancaster, NH – no report

Belfast, ME (Anne) – nothing official to report.

Brunswick, ME (Anne) – There have been a few new cancers

Bucksport, ME (Anne) – Fall dance party will be Oct 14th.

Kennebunk, ME – nothing official to report.

Fairlee, VT – no report

Albany, NY – Sundays are hybrid. 8 to 12 dancers in person, 25 online. November party is Fall Frolic.

20. Other Business – no other business. Mtg. Ajourned.