

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

December 2, 2020 (November meeting)

Zoom meeting: Marsha Byrnes, Bill Card, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Susan Haines, Winifred McGowan, Lance Ramshaw, Alena Taylor, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Linda McJannet

Guest: Debbie Jarvis, Chair of the Teaching and Music Committee

- 1. Minutes from the October 28, 2020 meeting** – The minutes were approved with a correction to the ESCape segment to say that there were "some" refunds to campers, and a correction to the TMC segment to say "Welcome Dance and Brunch musicians" instead of "non-Ball musicians."
- 2. Treasurer's Report (Cathy)** - Cathy reports that the cash balance stands at \$75,308. The prepaid revenue stands at \$14,080, which is Pinewoods deposits for next year. There has not been much activity for the last month. Membership is still trailing last year's numbers by about \$8000. The deadline had been set for November 15 which is probably not a rigid date. Some long-standing members have not even renewed. Cathy noted that at the HQ AGM, the Branches were asked not to delay sending their membership fees because HQ does have salaries and bills to pay. Therefore, each class liaison should ask their class contact to remind/push membership with their class members.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons -**
 - a) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Jeremy) – For Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, there are still no answers concerning whether or not it will occur. Everyone is hopeful that some kind of camp will happen, but will it be shorter, will it consist of smaller sessions, would vaccinations or antibody testing be required? The bottom line is that the Governor and Pinewoods Camp will be setting the rules, so we will need to be flexible. We will need to think about the contract language. Will the excess liability be covered by our insurance? Bill will e-mail to Bruce Mabbott to express our concerns and ask about the insurance issues plus what we should expect from Pinewoods Camp, Inc. If Pinewoods Camp is empty for a second year, the camp could be reclassified. If the dancers start asking about camp, we will be honest and say that we are optimistic but are waiting for answers and guidance from PCI.
 - b) Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – Debbie Jarvis, Chair of the TMC joined Marsha for this discussion. Marsha reported that the Can-Am Fundraiser went well and raised about \$13,000 for the Canadian-American Club.
As a reminder to the classes, the liaisons should reiterate to the classes that

they should apply for funds for their musicians.

The discussion then focused on the Highland Ball and how we could safely provide some type of event. It may be too early at that time for people to have received their vaccine, so what are the alternatives? Perhaps, it could be done in a tent with a dance floor, but how much would it cost and how soon would we need to reserve a tent? What would happen if we cancelled our reservation for the Hall? What about the caterers? Or, do we just plan to do the Brunch? More information needs to be gathered so we can discuss it further in January.

Debbie wants to remind everyone about the SDCEA's COVID-19 Relief Fund which has money available for both teachers and musicians. What needs to be done to make sure people know how to apply? If the classes were holding more events, would they be using more funds? Could the TMC help to teach/foster new musicians? We should be developing our existing musicians, besides retaining them. Could the newer musicians receive reimbursement for taking a class? Some of these questions would need to be answered by the SDCEA, because they do have guidelines for how their funds are distributed.

The question of why the Ball musicians are selected by Exec and not the TMC seems to be the possibility of a conflict of interest. A motion was then made and seconded that the Branch Policies and Procedures should be re-worded to assign the task of selecting the Ball musicians to TMC and for them to receive final approval from Exec before finalizing any contracts. The motion was approved.

- c) Membership (Susan) – When should the changeover of the Branch e-mail list occur? Peter and Mary Olszowka will need to update the database with HQ so that Cathy will know what to send HQ for dues fees. They will also need to work on the Membership Directory.
- d) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Barbara McOwen and Evelyn Murray are working on the next edition. The deadline is December 10th.

4. Optional Reports from Liaisons –

- a) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – Nothing to report at this time.
- b) ESCape (Jeremy) – Nothing to report at this time.
- c) Highland Ball (Marsha) – Nothing to report at this time.
- d) Equipment (Lance) – Nothing to report at this time.
- e) Loon Mountain Games (Karen) – Nothing to report at this time.
- f) Joint Ceilidh (Cathy) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g) Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – Nothing to report at this time.
- h) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – Nothing to report at this time.
- i) Website (Lance) – Nothing to report at this time.

j) Bookstore (Cathy) – Nothing to report at this time.

k) Class Liaisons –

- Great Barrington, MA (Winifred) – The group is still conducting Zoom classes and have had participants from their own area plus a couple from Maine.
- Albany, NY (Winifred) – The Zoom classes are going well, and they have a team of 10 teachers from various areas.
- Northampton, MA (Winifred) – The church where the class used to dance re-opened in November, and the class may pay some of their rent even though they are not holding classes.
- Brunswick, ME (Karen) – Their Zoom classes are going well.
- Cambridge, MA (Lance) – Their Zoom classes are going well.

5. Old Business –

6. New Business –

- a) Liaison assignments – The list was updated.

7. Next Meeting –

- a) January 6 – at 7:15 PM via Zoom