

RSCDS Boston Branch Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom link <https://bentley.zoom.us/j/96473604914>

Linda's cell 1-617-417-1621

Agenda

1. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena**) to be approved via email sent to exec on 12/2.

2. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. Membership dues on target with last year: 210 members (last year 207); a few more stragglers expected
 - i. Peter to provide list of usual members who have not renewed
 - ii. People often join in spring for the Pinewoods discount
 - iii. Will send HQ their piece of membership dues in January / early Feb after a few more join
 - iv. increase of about 10% due to raising dues
 - b. Boston Scottish Dancers - \$500 from concert, \$250 from world community
 - i. waiting for invoice from practice venue
 - c. Bookstore expenses: 5 Alastair + Natalie CDs
 - d. Highland Ball: deposits for next spring
 - e. Additional music subsidy for Albany class
 - f. Misc expense: credit card reader for ticket sales (not the high-end one); separate from Square reader
 - g. Pinewoods Benefit Ball: \$500 security deposit (refundable), \$300 non-profit fee should be re-couped from tickets
 - h. Increase largely because we haven't given HQ their cut of the membership fees
 - i. Concert - preliminary summary
 - i. Not yet paid light/sound; this has been billed at (\$3,300) twice what we budgeted, but we never received the quote that went out; some items on invoice that aren't understood; hoping for some adjustments
 - ii. Expenses slightly lower than expected - Anne Lambertis (?) hosted cast party and made this a gift; programs printed by John Crabtree, charged only for supplies
 - iii. Musician fees and hall rental both increased since last time
 - iv. Will have a more complete report next month after debriefing
 - v. Postcards worked to get people in! (Advantage of Ticketleap: asking how guests heard of us)

- vi. Sold 75% of tickets for matinee (yay!), 49% for evening
- vii. Not a great venue for those without cars especially in the evening

3. New business: State of the *Tartan Times*

(Invited guest **Barbara McOwen**)

- a. Current arrangements; long-term planning for leadership
 - i. Barbara is officially “assistant editor”, but doing nearly all the work; perhaps we should make Evelyn a new title, perhaps “founding editor” and better acknowledge Barbara’s work
 - ii. Could class reports go to Tartan Times editor?
 - iii. Barbara effectively creates party fliers from bare information, rather than anyone sending her actual copy
 - iv. Exec should make sure contact info is up to date (e.g. Pinewoods 2023 vs 2022)
 - v. Ready to pass this on to someone else; willing to work with someone to ramp up, but does not want to be editor indefinitely
 - vi. *Need a job description of what’s involved before finding someone to take over editing
- b. Review unique functions of the *Tartan Times*, esp. vis a vis the website
 - i. Branch started in 1950; Hugh Thurston first created Tartan Times; Evelyn took over in 60s and mainly ran it until ~2015; Barbara got involved to help proofread (when VP of the Branch) and help with layout, but no new editor was brought on when Evelyn moved back to the UK
 - ii. Web calendar is hard to deal with; doesn’t mention events outside the Branch (perhaps as it should be), whereas Tartan Times lists e.g. New Haven Ball etc.
 - iii. Obituaries maybe don’t belong on website, but those and other personal things contribute to the Branch community
 - iv. TT comes to you, whereas website is useful only if you’re actively seeking information.
- c. Improving communication with class leaders (possible zoom call?), event planners, and Exec; clarifying responsibilities – (who and what- e.g. fliers, vs basic info)
- d. Ideas for how to find a new editor
 - i. Good job description - what’s involved, time commitment
 - Barbara has agreed to put a draft together
 - ii. Draw on past Exec members for suggestions
 - iii. Make sure we consider those outside the Boston area
 - iv. TT readers find it valuable - especially those who get printed copy
 - v. Note John C does the printing (only 16 subscribers)
- e. Ideas for the TT itself

- i. Include more class news - possibly have a Zoom call with class leaders all together to ask to copy TT editor when sending reports to Exec liaison, and send flyers instead of basic info about parties etc.
- ii. Put TT on website (many other branches have newsletters including archives on websites); perhaps also e.g. Ball programs
 - Is TT a perk of being a member? Or is it okay for it to be more widely accessible?
 - There is a members-only section of the website if we want it
 - Opinions expressed that it's fine for non-Branch members to get to read the TT
- f. AI: all think about who to approach to be new editor and how to gather suggestions
- g. AI: Linda and Barbara will coordinate on how to get better communication from class leaders, event organizers, etc.
- h. Website and TT should complement one another
 - i. TT to promote social connections - e.g. photo from a class's party
- i. Exec should take responsibility for the who's-who list, for both TT and website
 - i. combine TT and website liaison into one job, more pro-active about keeping information up to date
- j. Class liaisons can communicate to class leaders that TT would welcome notes, and ask to be able to send reports for Exec to TT as well
 - i. does not have to be every class having notes in every issue
- k. Initial communication more centralized - Zoom meeting can also get input from class leaders - with ongoing communication via class liaisons
 - i. Linda will send this out, and invite class leaders to a doodle poll to schedule a Zoom meeting
- l. Is it worth polling wider membership about value of TT and which parts they find most valuable? - maybe start with class leaders and event organizers
- m. Could reduce frequency from 6x to e.g. 2x a year if current frequency is too much work
- n. Thanks expressed to Barbara for keeping it going!

4. Reports from liaisons

- a. **Membership (Cathy)**
 - i. Update on membership drive; suggestion to create automatic (or manual) acknowledgement for those who renew
 - there is already an email confirmation of payment from Jotform
 - May discuss further at a future meeting
- b. **Teaching & Music Committee (Marsha)**
 - i. NEFFA - applications in for classes, will hear more in January
 - ii. Highland Ball - Elizabeth will take care of picking MCs
 - Saturday night band will no longer be Judy Nicholson, since

- players would have significant travel and raise the expense.
 - Has now asked Parcel of Rogues for Saturday.
 - Program not yet official, pending approval of the band
 - iii. Pinewoods - making changes to grid and class descriptions
 - iv. Request from Exec to Ball organizers to indicate date/decade of each dance, acknowledging 100-yr of RSCDS; Marsha will talk to Karen who is doing the Ball program
 - c. **Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha)**
 - i. “survived” the concert
 - ii. Not doing NEFFA
 - iii. Sometimes Burns’ night requests
 - iv. Someone at MIT would like to host a ceilidh; in touch with Tom for band, and Andy to find a caller
 - d. **Highland Ball (Marsha)**
 - i. Budget is due, but Elizabeth lost power, so we will do this by e-mail
 - e. **Fall 2022 Concert (Linda)**
 - i. Attendees loved it, great program
 - ii. Video has fine sound, but not very high-def
 - iii. More at next meeting
 - f. **PW Scottish Sessions (Connie)**
 - i. PCI Board approved 2023 budget - adult rate is \$62 (5.1% increase), changeover lunch is \$7
 - ii. Staff lineup confirmed, getting musician contracts
 - iii. Decision about mileage compensation: Yes, we will increase to whatever posted business rate is for 2023 (not charitable rate), should be already in musician contracts
 - iv. Budget to be presented to Exec for next meeting, Jan 4
 - g. **ESCape (Bill)**
 - i. Nothing since last meeting but discussing with Connie whether she should take over liaison since she is on the ESCape committee.
 - h. **Website (David)**
 - i. Meyer wants more content
 - ii. Request for information on 2023 Pinewoods organizers and teachers
 - iii. Reminder to send Meyer late joiners for membership list
 - iv. Please all review the members-only section and see if you think it makes sense
 - i. **Nominating Committee (Marsha)**
 - i. Mary Ellen as temporary member
 - j. **Equipment (Connie)**
 - i. No news

- k. Publicity (**Alena**)
 - i. No updates
 - l. Loon Mountain Games (Sept. 16-18) (**Alena**)
 - i. This is the slow season for the games planning team.
 - m. New Hampshire Highlands (**Anne**)
 - i. no news
 - n. Tartan Times (**Emily**)
 - o. Bookstore (**Alena**)
 - i. Laurie is bringing a limited selection to the ball for attendees shopping pleasure.
 - p. Class Liaisons (see below)
 - q. *Optional reports:* Archives (Emily); Calendar (Marsha)
5. Continuing business
- a. Newton class should be removed from listings
6. Next Meeting: **Jan. 4, 2023**, confirmed

CLASS LIAISONS

Great Barrington, MA: **Ted**

no class for a month, Ted out of town / had covid

Northampton, MA: **Ted**

party well received all around - 10 couples

class subsidy helped pay for Beth Murray, Ann Hooper, and (missed the last musician)

one new prospective dancer

are there photos to send to TT?

Albany, NY: **Ted**

Fall Frolic with Terpischore, ~50 people combined among in-person pods at Lois', Binghamton, Crabtrees' house, and outdoors from Belfast

next event Hogmanay on 31st

are there photos to send to TT?

Greenland, NH: **Bill**

low attendance, would love for more local people to know about them

Nashua, NH: **Bill**

classes now and then when there are enough

New Year's Day dance and potluck

Kennebunk, ME: **Bill**

two new couples who seem to be sticking with it

not dancing in Dec, resume Jan 8

Belfast, ME: **Anne**

nothing new

Brunswick, ME: **Anne**

a few new people coming, responding to ad in local newspaper

Bucksport, ME: **Anne**

nothing new

Lancaster, NH: **David**

finally reached Bill Turbin (?) - class is running since early/mid Oct.

David will update Exec with Bill's phone number

Fairlee, VT: **David**

averaging 10 dancers, some attended Northampton party, some will come to Benefit Ball

Burlington, VT: **Connie**

Cambridge, MA: **Emily**

usual activities, usually about 3 sets
some newer dancers attending regularly
holiday party Dec. 19

Brookline, MA: **Emily**

ask TMC if there is someone who would want to teach
Emily to ask Flo whether they would still have access to the venue if another teacher
were found

Newton, MA: **Emily**

interest was already thin before Covid
some dancers have followed Heather to Bedford
not enough interest to resume class
Newton class should be removed from listings

Bedford, MA: **Emily**

continuing to dance with typically 1-2 sets

Salem, MA: **Alena**

Have had enough dancers to pay the rent each week (at least 7), looking forward to more.

Stow, MA: **Alena**

~ a set for dancing and often come from afar.

Chelmsford, MA: **Alena**

no news