

**Northern Virginia Branch – Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2015
Durant Center, Alexandria, VA
April 29, 2015**

Location: Durant Center, Alexandria, Virginia

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Proof of Quorum: Bryan McGhee established by show of hands that there was a quorum, so he proceeded with the meeting agenda.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Anne Dempsey presented the minutes from the 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

- Eva Lanyi made a motion to accept the Secretary’s Report (2014 AGM Minutes).
- Barney Lawless seconded the motion.
- The Secretary’s Report was approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Jay Andrews presented the Treasurer’s Report, and commented that there was a net loss of \$110.49 for the year, primarily due to Argyle expenses.

- Peggy Collier made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report.
- Irene McGhee seconded the motion.
- The Treasurer’s Report was approved by unanimous vote.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thomas Iwasawa reported:

Membership has remained stable over the past year:

- Number of Branch member as of 2014 AGM: 57
- Number of Branch member as of 2015 AGM: 57

Membership numbers for the Charlottesville group are slightly down from last year:

- Number of Charlottesville Branch member as of 2014 AGM: 9
- Number of Charlottesville Branch member as of 2015 AGM: 8

Average attendance at weekly classes is slightly up from last year:

- Average weekly attendance as of 2014 AGM: 22
- Average weekly attendance as of 2015 AGM: 25

TEACHERS COMMITTEE REPORT

Yvonne Yang reported:

Insert – Teacher’s Report (see next page):

**Northern Virginia Branch, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Teacher Director's Report, Annual General Meeting, April 29, 2015**

The Branch finished the regular teaching year in May 2014 with classes in Alexandria, VA and Charlottesville, VA. In June 2014, in addition to a Social class with guest teachers, the Alexandria class held an Advanced class organized by Shanda Robertson and Maria Ward, and taught by Ellie Briscoe (Pam Stephens, Washington Branch, substituted for one class). For the remainder of the summer, the Alexandria class continued with a Social class with guest teachers, and a FUNDamentals class. Due to its success last year, the Branch again offered an 8-week introductory session in both the Fall and Spring semesters, primarily taught by Margaret Grandine and Ellie Briscoe, and we are delighted to welcome several enthusiastic new dancers.

Eva Lanyi scheduled live music for the Alexandria class on an occasional basis. Eva also arranged for our use of The Durant Center for classes and dances, and St. Stephen's/St. Agnes and Trinity Presbyterian Church for dances.

Ellie Briscoe organized "new book" workshops to dance through many of the dances in RSCDS Book 48 and RSCDS Graded Book 3, on February 1 and March 7, 2015. Participating teachers were invited to teach a dance. The well-attended workshops were open to intermediate dancers and above.

The Branch performed demonstrations at the following events:

- August 30-31, 2014: Virginia Scottish Games, The Plains, VA
- December 6, 2014: Christmas Walk Parade and Dancing at the Athenaeum, Alexandria, VA
- January 24, 2015: Victorian Society Burns Night Supper, Alexandria, VA
- January 31, 2015: Hylton in the Highlands: A Festival of Scotland, Manassas, VA
- April 11, 2015: Tartan Day at Market Square, Alexandria VA

Two Branch members received RSCDS scholarships this year:

- Elizabeth Holton – 2014 RSCDS Summer School and 2015 Spring Fling
- Shanda Robertson – 2014 RSCDS Summer School

The Branch is honored to have had two dancers selected for the SCD demonstration teams at the 2014 RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews:

- Week 3: Damaris Jimenez
- Week 4: Elizabeth Holtan

In addition, on April 25, 2015, Branch teachers and dancers participated in a "Scoutish Games" Girl Scout event at Camp Highroad in Middleburg, VA. One of the event organizers, Madeleine Brooks-Kenney contacted DC area SCD groups and teachers with an invitation to run Scottish Country Dancing workshops for Girl Scouts grades K-7. Branch teachers Ron Lehmkuhl, Dale Mantautas, and Maria Ward led 4 SCD sessions for grades 3-7, teaching a total of about 80 girls. Ralph Stoddard, Boston Branch, ran 2 SCD sessions for grades K-2. The workshops were well received and the organizers said that the authenticity of the dancing and dancers made the event.

Teachers' Activities:

The Branch has 12 fully certificated teachers, including three who are distant (outside of VA). We have four preliminary / Teaching Certificate Part 1 teachers. For the Alexandria class, teaching rotations have typically lasted for about 4-6 classes, with teachers having one or two teaching rotations during the regular teaching year, September-May. For summer social dancing, in addition to those who regularly teach in Alexandria, Northern Virginia Branch teachers who live outside the

D.C. area and area teachers who belong to other Branches were invited to guest teach a class. Teachers in Charlottesville are organized separately.

The Branch conducted a survey of dancers, prepared and summarized by Marla Bright. In response to survey feedback the Board made a few recommendations to the Teachers' Committee, and as a result the teachers introduced some changes into the teaching structure.

1. More frequent in-class parties, with live music when possible.
2. Greater physical and mental rigor of dances covered in the weekly General classes (fewer walkthroughs, more dancing instead of standing and listening).
3. Increased instruction in technique other than footwork (e.g. formations, handing, phrasing, and covering) in the weekly General classes.
4. Incorporation of advanced dancing elements in the weekly General classes, to provide more challenge for experienced dancers.

We depend on dancer evaluation forms to make the class a better experience for the dancers, and invite dancers to provide feedback at any time, on the classes in general or for specific teachers.

The Northern Virginia and Washington Branches collaborated on organizing a DC area "Skills for Advanced Dancing" class, taught by Ellie Briscoe, No.Va. Branch, and Mel Briscoe, Boston Branch (Kathy Giacoletti, Delaware Valley Branch, substituted for one class). Participants include 13 No.Va. Branch dancers (including 2 from C'ville) and 8 Washington Branch dancers. The class has been meeting once a month at NIH Building T-39, and offers dancers an opportunity to focus on improving their dancing, with individual critique and video feedback.

The Northern Virginia Branch participated in the evaluation of dances for Book 49. The Branch received a set of 6 dances that Branch teachers taught in local classes and dancers evaluated. The Branch collected the feedback and submitted it to the RSCDS in October 2014. This is a great way for dancers around the world to assist the RSCDS with the publication of new dances.

The TAC AGM Weekend, Basic Teaching Skills course, and Summer School will be at Longwood University in Farmville, VA, July 26-August 2, 2015. Caroline Jimenez is the TAC Summer School Hospitality Chair and Ellie Briscoe, No.Va. Branch and Elaine Brunken, Washington Branch devised the weeknight dance programs. Ellie Briscoe and Yvonne Yang are the TAC Area Reps for the Washington, DC area. Teachers should consider going to the AGM, and all dancers are encouraged to attend Summer School. An Early Bird registration discount is available until April 30, 2015.

The Teachers' Committee has been working with the Bylaws Committee to update the Teacher Director section of the bylaws, and the Teacher Director job description.

The Teachers' Committee met on August 24, 2014, November 23, 2014, and February 28, 2015. At the February 28, 2015 Teachers' Committee meeting, the teachers present unanimously elected Ellie Briscoe as the new Teacher Director, term effective at the conclusion of the Branch AGM.

Submitted on April 29, 2015,

Yvonne Y. Yang
Teacher Director

CHAIR'S REPORT

Bryan McGhee reported:

Insert – Chair's Report:

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Northern Virginia Branch Chairman's Annual Report to the AGM 29 April 2015

Since this group is all about the dancing, I'm going to begin by recalling the dances that we sponsored this past year. After the AGM in April, our first formal dance was the Basic Tea Dance in May, held at St. Stephens & St. Agnes School, with the dance program devised by Shanda Robertson and Rosalie Duncan, and music by Dave Weisler and Becky Ross. Next came the Carol Porter Celebration Dance in August, held at Trinity Presbyterian and devised by Jay Andrews, with music by Jim Stevenson-Mathews and Elke Baker. In November we proudly presented our 31st Annual Argyle Weekend, held at St. Stephens and St. Agnes School. Dance programs were devised by Yvonne Yang and Ron Lehmkuhl & Dale Mantautas, with music by Terpsichore plus Anne Hooper. We also featured teachers Linda Gaul and Sandy Gallamore. With a breakfast, lunch, brunch and a lively afters party at the Briscoes', everyone was well fed as well as well exercised. Putting on the Argyle is always a big endeavor and much thanks goes to the planners Carol Pelenberg and Ellie Briscoe, with help from their entire committee. This year we also held two successful fundraisers to help close a \$1200 gap. In December, we walked and demoed in Alexandria's Christmas Walk Parade, and in the afternoon held demos and participation dancing at the Athenaeum, with a program devised by Maria Ward and music by David Knight. Then of course, our Burns Night celebration and dance was held in January, with dance program devised by Maria Ward and Rosalie Duncan, plus toasts to the Bard, the Lassies, the Laddies and the Haggis given by Jay Andrews, Jeff Graham, Juliana Lufkin and Evan and Rosalie Duncan. This year we experimented with a sit down supper nicely organized by Shanda Robertson, as we enjoyed the speeches and toasted with sparkling cider. Just about a month later in late February, we held our final Branch dance for the fiscal year, the Snowdrop Ball, this year held at St. Stephens and St. Agnes School. The spirited dance program was devised by Margaret Grandine, with music by Neil Pearlman and David Knight. It took a lot of work by a lot of people to put on all of these dances - teachers, Board members and all of you. With a special "Thank You" to all the teachers who devised our interesting dance programs, I also want to mention that we have been blessed with a cadre of professional local and occasionally imported musicians, who kept us moving.

This year on the Board, we continued emphasis in the areas of Publicity and Archives, thanks to the ideas and efforts of Elizabeth Holtan and Marla Bright. Publicity was a strong focus - after a push to increase awareness of regular group classes and beginner "fundamentals," the branch welcomed a number of new members this year. The branch also focused on new flyers, brochures, social and print media announcements and other materials to publicize classes and dance events. For Archives, Marla has been documenting our dances with a series of very interesting and informative photo posters and mounting these on trifolds for display at dances and other events. These trifolds have drawn people to our tables for further informational discussions at demo events. Thanks also to Thomas Iwasawa for enhanced and frequent communication with members via the Mail Chimp announcements.

Several other issues are worthy of a few words in report. At the AGM before last, we all approved a new Articles of Incorporation. Since then Board members have worked on a new set of bylaws to complete our Branch guidance documents. At this point, versions of bylaws have been drafted. These still must be reviewed by the Board and no doubt revised to some extent, before the Board can bring them back to the members for approval. This will have to be a task for the newly elected Board since the clock ran out for this cycle. On another issue, a scholarship committee was formed jointly by the Washington DC Branch and this Branch in order to administer funds raised by publication of locally-devised dances. Funds now exist from previous sales of the "Between the Rivers" dance book. The committee will consider further fund raising, including the possibility of putting together a new book with dances that were devised for last years RSCDS Book 49 dance competition. The committee plans to develop and document policies for awarding scholarships to local dancers, using the funds raised. Finally, I want to update you about the Durant Center issue. As many of you know, the City of Alexandria plans to start charging fees for certain uses of the recreation centers, such as our weekly class usage. We got a reprieve for a few months on this, however recent communication appears to indicate that we may have to pay fees of about \$70 per week, starting in July. The City Council is to address the recreation fees issue at an early May meeting. After that we should receive further information. If these fees are imposed, the Board is going to have to consider how to finance that increase to our costs of about \$3500 a year. I'm sure the new Board will keep us all informed.

In conclusion, I want to thank all of you for your support financially, and with your energy and willingness to help in so many ways to put on our annual class and dance program. And of course a special thank you to the Board Members for thoughtful participation in monthly meetings, and for all the things you have volunteered to do that made these dances happen, with smoothness and success in quality and quantity. It has been a rewarding adventure to serve as your Board Chair for the past two years, and I thank you all for your help.

Bryan McGhee
Chair, Board of Directors

ELECTION OF BRANCH OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Dave Chase, Jacqui Hepburn, and Irene McGhee served on the Nominating Committee. Dave announced the slate of nominees for Board officer and director positions:

Position	Candidate
Chair	Eva Lanyi
Vice Chair	Thomas Iwasawa
Secretary	Anne Dempsey
Treasurer	Bryan McGhee
Membership Director	Maria Ward
Archives Director	Helen Lawless
Publicity Director	Elizabeth Holtan
Refreshments Director	Georgene Porter
Refreshments Coordinator	Rochelle Mullis

(Note that the position of Teacher Director is not decided by the general membership of the Branch; rather, the Director is elected by the Teachers Committee. As Yvonne Yang reported earlier, Ellie Briscoe was elected to the position and her term will begin directly after the AGM.)

Dave asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations.

- Barney Lawless made a motion to close the nominations.
- Carol Pelenberg seconded the motion.
- The motion was passed unanimously.

The slate of nominees was accepted:

- Irene McGhee made a motion to accept the slate of nominations.
- Evan Duncan seconded the motion.
- The motion was passed unanimously.

The new officers and directors will begin their terms directly after the AGM.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bryan McGhee asked if there were any other issues that the Branch would like to discuss. There was no response.

MEETING ADJOURNED

- Dave Chase moved to adjourn the meeting.
- Several people seconded the motion.
- All approved.

The meeting adjourned (exact time not noted, but meeting ran approximately 15-20 minutes).

Minutes prepared and submitted by Anne Dempsey, Branch Secretary