

**Northern Virginia Branch, Royal Scottish  
Country Dance Society  
Teacher Director's Report, Annual General  
Meeting, April 27, 2016**

Classes: The Branch held regular general and FUNdamentals classes at the Durant Center in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016, and summer social dancing, mostly with guest teachers from other groups, in Summer 2015.

The FUNs classes followed the pattern of an introductory eight-week session for a flat fee of \$40, with dancers invited to join the Branch and Society and keep dancing in a continuation FUNs class until the end of the spring trimester. The separate FUNs class was held except when attendance was too low to hold two simultaneous classes, or when there was a class night party.

Class night parties were managed by the teachers during whose assignments they fell, with the bulk of the dances chosen to be suitable for the FUNs. These were held September 2, October 28, the rescheduled Burns Night February 10, March 16, and the AGM April 27. Live music was provided for the class night parties, usually by Liz Donaldson and Becky Ross, and organized by Vice-Chair Thomas Iwasawa.

Dance events: Branch teachers devised and emceed programs for the Carol Porter Celebration, Argyle, Christmas Walk, and Basic Tea dances. Ellen Ternes was invited to work with trainee Thomas Iwasawa to do the Snowdrop Ball program, and Lou Hansen from Charlottesville to help with the Basic Tea Dance program.

Demos: There were few demonstrations this year; the Hylton and Victorian Burns night events did not need dancers or were not held, and the proposed demo at the George Washington Masonic conflicted with the Snowdrop Ball. Mostly, there was participation dancing alternating with "dance party" segments at the Virginia Games in September and at the Athenaeum on March 5, 2016, when the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day parade brought in a good crowd. We did do a demonstration and one

participation dance on January 14 for the Ashland Elementary School (Manassas) Heritage Day Festival. We declined to organize a demo for a Williamsburg event, referring the organizers to the Richmond and Williamsburg dancers.

Workshops: Yvonne Yang and Ellie Briscoe taught a Beginners Boost workshop in November 2015. A Book 49 workshop on January 30, 2016, was sponsored jointly by the NV and Washington DC branches.

Teachers: The teachers agreed to dispense with the traditional waiver of tuition, and to pay the same tuition as other members. Teachers were paid by the night for teaching, with the honorarium shared when the class duty was shared. Teaching rotations lasted four to eight weeks.

The regular classes were taught by Margaret Grandine, Jay Andrews, Yvonne Yang, Eva Lanyi, Ellie Briscoe, Ron Lemkuhl and Dale Mantautas. Thomas Iwasawa assisted with teaching as a potential teacher candidate. Branch members who are RSCDS teachers who teach classes in Charlottesville are Ron, Dale, Lou Hansen, Caroline Jimenez, and Celia Belton.

Ellie Briscoe took office as Teacher Director in April 2015 for a two-year term. She and Mel Briscoe are planning to hold a candidate class in Fall 2016 – Spring 2017, which would, as before, be sponsored jointly by the NV and Washington DC branches. Teachers' Committee Guidelines were adopted at a meeting in March 2016.

v/r,

Ellie Briscoe  
Teacher Director  
March 26, 2016