

Carolinas Branch Annual General Meeting Minutes
Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Beatties Ford Road, Huntersville, NC
9 April 2017

Present for the meeting: Pete Campbell, Brian Carr, Tom Dillon, Grace Mauney, Mary McConnell, Pam Stephens, Eilean Yates, Barbara Youngman, Brian Youngman, Adam Brady, Luke Brady (11 members present).

Call to Order and Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by Mary McConnell, Chairman. Copies of the agenda were presented and additions to the Agenda were offered. There were no additions. The minutes of the 2016 AGM have been posted on the website since shortly after last year's meeting. Any corrections or additions were solicited and there were none. A motion was made by Tom Dillon and seconded by Luke Brady to dispense with the reading of last year's minutes and to accept them as previously posted. All approved.

Secretary's Report: Joi Heath was not present to give the report due to a family emergency. There was no special Branch event this year. However, the Branch has grown by 24 new members from Virginia, largely the Richmond area, and some of these may be transfers from Northern Virginia. Grace Mauney graciously stepped forward to take notes of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Report was given by Brian Youngman. Total membership is 95, including 3 Young Adult members and 7 Associates. Total collections were \$3,259. Expenses were \$2,200.31. The Wells Fargo bank balance including cash at the beginning is \$5,230.04. Our balance is positively affected by the favorable exchange rate between the USD and GBP currently, which may not continue. Eilean offered a motion to accept the report with Brian Carr seconding. All approved.

Chairman's Message: Mary McConnell gave the remarks. There was no Branch dance this year. However, some new local dance groups were started and local dances were held by Branch members. We were able last evening to recognize Eilean Yates with presentation of the Carolinas Branch Award as first president and superb dance supporter. Our Branch covers a large geographical area. Communication and need to travel to be together is a challenge. Mary expressed a desire to encourage local groups to sponsor dances and events that they would organize and ask the Branch for financial support. A draft of a proposed request for funds was posted in the last Newsletter. A general discussion continued with further ideas expressed. This could extend to individuals requesting help to take advantage of events. Pam asked how this could be publicized and how far in advance a request might need to be made. Luke suggested the possibility of "provisional" help to cover any losses that might be incurred. We have responded to the request from Headquarters to try out some of the new dances proposed for Book 52 as a Branch project. Different dance groups can participate with one final evaluation to be completed by August 31. Tom was recognized for editing the Newsletter. Although he is happy to continue at this time, he would like help from someone willing to take on the project in future. We now send in our dues to Headquarters by June 30 each year. The Secretary will need to send out a reminder to the membership. The membership form for 2017-18 is already available on the website. Pam asked about ways to encourage membership. Luke mentioned that new member packs are available from Headquarters which each local leader could get to share with their group to help educate new dancers.

Old Business was covered in the discussion responding to the Chairman's message. Tom asked if all members have received RSCDS membership cards which are no longer sent out each year, but are now laminated with a permanent number. Apparently some members have not received cards.

New Business: The votes were tabulated for the Election of Officers for the 2017-2019 term. There were no write in candidates and the votes were unanimous. 63 ballots were returned. The officers are: Mary McConnell, Chair, Eilean Yates, Vice-Chair, Brian Youngman, Treasurer, and Karen Becker, Secretary.

There was some further discussion of local groups applying for funds. There has already been a request from the Arkansas group for a concert and dance event with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, May 12, in Little Rock. Brian Youngman reminded us that the Chairman has a discretionary fund. [Further investigation of previous meeting notes showed the fund to be \$300.] Eilean said we should consider using a percentage of funds as we have to consider the current state of our balance. Brian Carr moved to pursue a process to disseminate funds to assist our classes and dancers in activities. Barbara seconded. All approved. An email will be sent to the membership for an opinion, as a quorum was not present. If no response is made by the membership, the motion will be considered carried. [Silence will be considered consent.]

Eilean expressed appreciation for her Branch Award. Tom moved to adjourn at 10:28 am and all approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Society membership with Carolinas Branch affiliation is now 88 members up from 60 from last year. Associate membership is 7 members which is the same as last year and brings the total membership in the Carolinas Branch to 95. The increase in membership is due primarily to the addition of dancers from Richmond, Williamsburg, and surrounding areas. I am happy to report that we also have 3 young adult branch members.

Total collections from dues were \$3259.00 from which \$2072.23 was paid to the Society and \$261.41 for branch expenses for a net of \$925.36. This is an increase over last year even though the RSCDS raised its membership prices. The increase in net income is a result of our increased membership and a declining British pound. Our starting balance for the year was \$4171.35. With the combined net of \$925.36 our ending balance is \$5096.71. The balance in the Wells Fargo account is 5230.04 with an outstanding check for \$133.33 leaves \$5096.71 cash on hand. This matches the ending book balance.