



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

February 10, 2014

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to order

Chuck Ensor

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am. Directors present were: Beverley Cheatham, Paul Cuneo, Chuck Ensor, Joyce Gore, Kathy Hughes, Tom Martinsen, Bill Riley and Nancy Strohmer. Jim Woodward, treasurer, was present. Errol LeCesne was absent. Bill Riley arrived after the District report.

Approval of minutes

Bill Riley

Motion: That the January Minutes distributed by Email be approved.

The motion was made by Paul, seconded by Joyce and approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report

Chuck Ensor / Jim Woodward

Jim Woodward had sent the report via Email prior to meeting. A hard copy was distributed at the meeting.

Motion: That the December Treasurer's report be approved.

The motion was made by Paul, seconded by Nancy and approved by all present.

District Report

Paul Cuneo

Paul presented the report from the District 16 meeting held in conjunction with the Lone Star Regional. Key actions were:

1. Election of Officers for 2014
President – Jim Thurtell
1st Vice President – Paul Cuneo
2nd Vice President – David Pennington
2. Appointments:
Secretary – Rebecca Brown
Treasurer – Lew Levy
Charity Committee Chair – Nancy Strohmer
3. Membership
Membership declined to 8818 as of Jan 1, 2014 from 8881 in Jan 2013.
4. Regional Schedules



The committee which was appointed in September made its recommendation of a model schedule for the District's regionals excluding Houston. The goal was to provide a variety of events and avoid overlapping the start of knockouts and Swiss Team events.

4. Eddie Wold's Summer Camp

Eddie plans to conduct a summer camp for some of the most promising young players. The District approved a \$2000 grant for this effort.

Old Business

2014 LSR

ALL

Overview of the 2014 LSR

The Board reviewed the recent regional.

Several positive changes were noted from this year's tournament.

- a. Food service by Marriott – Lunch and dinner buffets
- b. Hospitality by UNIT 174 and Marriott
- c. Change in layout of selling entries and managing team events in foyer
- d. Director calls answered in timely manner
- e. Posters advertising speakers, candidates and meal selection
- f. Overall schedule of events

Areas needing improvement

- a. Temperature control – perennial issue
- b. Sound system in foyer
The tournament coordinator will be responsible for checking system each day to be sure that the system is set to project in foyer and ball room.
- c. Attendance – Final table count was 2790 1/2 versus 3259 1/2 last year. The decrease on Monday and Tuesday was most likely weather related – an analysis of the Table Count from Wed through Sat was done and demonstrated significantly lower entries for the pair games. One possible explanation is the nearness of the March Nationals in Dallas.

Entries Wed - Sat	2013	2014	% DECREASE FROM 2013
Pairs	936	724	23%
Teams	1340	1292	4%

- d. Better signage for various areas
WELCOME NEW PLAYERS HOSPITALITY PARTNERSHIP
PAIR SIGN UP SPEAKERS PHOTO STATION
TEAM SIGN UP
- e. Reorganize serving lines for Sunday meal – move condiments or package them
- f. Need more tournament flyers
- g. Decrease congestion around the table assignment area for team events.

Several suggestions were made – limiting only captain in the area. Possibly having a projector available to project. Projecting the teams is being discussed at the National level but the programming to do that will not be available for a year or more.

Suggestions and possible changes for next year



- a. Schedule 1 ZIP KO on Friday only since that night is only one that made
- b. Play 26-27 boards in OPEN PAIR EVENT – 24 boards in 299er game
- c. Have someone carry “ASK ME SIGN”
- d. Hot soup or chili at snack bar on 1 or 2 days
- e. Speakers

Speakers should be introduced by a board member. A second person should be available to be in the back distributing handouts. This responsibility should fall on the I/N coordinator or designee. There was discussion about purchasing a projector for the UNIT. The board tabled that for a future discussion.

TAP and Director Courses

There were 12 attendees for the TAP course and 23 attendees for the director’s course. There were ~ 25 attendees for the director’s review course.

2014 LSR

Chuck Ensor

Chuck assigned Beverley to prepare the schedule for the 2015 Regional to be presented for approval at the March meeting.

NAP/GNT

Tom Martinsen

GNT is set to be played at the Bridge Studio of Houston on the 16th of February.

Supplies

Tom Martinsen

Tom showed the trophies for the Mar 1st ABA/ACBL game.

Bridge in Schools / Education Liaison

No report

Unit Sponsored Lessons

Chuck Ensor

Shawn Quinn discussed with Chuck that she and Gary King are planning to put something together in September

Membership Attraction & Retention

All

Joyce reported that she and Tom met with a group from the Chinese community center on Feb 9th in an attempt to recruit new members. Both felt that it is too early and they really wanted someone to train them. Joyce is going to continue the relationship.

2014 I/N Sanctions / UNIT Championships

Bill reported that the dates for the UNIT Championship games have been set. There are still 2 available to be used. The additional I/N tournament is pending as are the UNIT charity games.

ABA Joint Event

The game is set for March 1st. Nancy presented a detailed list of needs and responsibilities for the game.

Whirlwind Bridge

Beverley reported that she has received a grant from the ACBL about the sponsorship. The date will be Sept. 6th.



April Election Sectional

Paul Cuneo and Kathy Hughes

Paul reported that the event is ready.

August Sectional

Beverley Cheatham

Beverley presented the schedule. There was a discussion about including a charity game. She will contact the ACBL about using one of the pair games. These were going to be scored as an overall by the best score in 2 of 3 sessions.

Motion: That the schedule for August regional be approved.

The motion was made by Paul, seconded by Bill and approved by all present.

Humble Sectional 2015

Paul Cuneo

Paul reported that he has contacted 2 hotels in the Greenspoint area and the racetrack and has not heard back from them.

Procedures

All

Still being reviewed.

Bylaws

All

The board discussed the request by Steve Reichek to be recognized at the election sectional to discuss a possible revision of the bylaws – specifically the election procedures.

Motion: That Steve Reichek be allowed to make a short presentation at the April Election Sectional be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy, seconded by Bill. However, after discussion the motion was amended by Nancy that the UNIT board will put up a position statement on the web site to present our recommendations before the April Sectional. No vote on a change to the Bylaws can be held without meeting the criteria in the UNIT Bylaws.

Amended Motion: 1. That Steve Reichek be recognized to speak at the April Election Sectional and that the UNIT 174 Board post a position statement prior to the Election Sectional be approved.

The amended motion was approved by all.

Paul agreed to submit a draft and will forward by Email for the Board's approval before posting.

Future Meeting Dates

Chuck Ensor

Chuck discussed the future board meetings – specifically the one scheduled right after the April election Sectional. The board decided to hold that meeting in the evening on April 7th at the Bridge Studio of Houston.

New Business

Eddie's Wold's Youth Camp

Nancy Strohmer / Chuck Ensor

The board received a request for the support of the camp for selected youth players. Eddie Wold will train these youth without compensation. Paul reported that the district will support financially. There will be 2 players invited from our District: Zach Garrison and Arjun Bose.



Motion: That UNIT 174 provide a \$500 sponsorship to Eddie's Wold's camp be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy, seconded by Paul and approved by all present.

District Charity

Nancy Strohmer / Paul Cuneo

The board was notified that the ACBL will be issuing grants to each district for local charities to be determined by the district. The board will request that the members submit nominations for a charity. The charity must be an eligible 501(c) 3 to be nominated. All funds must be used by December 15th.

The board discussed various ways to notify the members for their recommendations through the website and Email. Nancy will coordinate the efforts.

Longest Day

Chuck Ensor

The ACBL will again be promoting the Longest day to support Alzheimer's research in June. The Board would like to encourage clubs to participate.

Executive Session

The board was in executive session for 10 minutes to discuss possible nominees for the various awards. Chuck presented the criteria for each: OSWALD AND JAMES JACOBY AWARD, DISTRICT 16 UNIT GOODWILL AWARD and DISTRICT 16 TEXAS STAR AWARD.

Future Meeting dates

The next meeting will be held on Monday March 3rd at 9:30am at Tracy Gee Community Center.

Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Riley, Secretary

