



Memorandum of Discussion
ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting
July 20, 2015
Westside Bridge Academy

Call to order

Nancy Strohmer

Nancy Strohmer, President of Unit 174, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Directors present were: Bob Armstrong, John Caudill, Beverly Cheatham, Chuck Ensor, Walter Freitag, Daniel Jackson, Daniel Leightman, Bill Riley (by cell phone), and Nancy Strohmer.

Directors absent were: None.

Others attending were: Paul Cuneo – President of ACBL District 16 Board of Directors, Gary Hercules – Treasurer, and Dan Morse – ACBL District 16 Representative.

ACBL Board of Directors District 16 Representative

Dan Morse

Dan Morse stated that United States Bridge Federation (USBF) would be having the open trials in Houston over the Mother's Day weekend in 2018. There would be very little work that needed to be done by Unit 174 if we opt to participate, mainly to contact the media about this event. It is anticipated that 20 to 30 teams will be competing.

Dan Morse also stated that Houston has more votes in the upcoming District-Wide election in District 16. There will be a period of 6 weeks to vote electronically – the middle of August to the end of September 2015.

Approval of minutes

Bob Armstrong

Bob Armstrong had emailed copies of the June minutes to the Board members.

Motion: That the June minutes be approved.

The above motion was made by Chuck Ensor and seconded by John Caudill. The motion was approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

The June treasurer's report had sent by Email from Gary Hercules. The Verifiers Report had also been sent by Mike Hofmann.

Motion: That the June Financial Report be approved.



The above motion was made by Chuck Ensor and seconded by Beverley Cheatham. The motion was approved by all.

District 16 Report

Paul Cuneo

Paul Cuneo stated that a monthly I/N newsletter will be sent out electronically about the middle of every month. The first edition is expected to be sent out about September 1, 2015. District 16 will pay for the distribution. Unit 174 will be responsible for maintaining its own list of valid emails for its members.

Old Business

Upcoming District-Wide Election in District 16

Group

Paul Cuneo stated that it will post biographies and pictures of all the candidates on its website. There will be links to all submitted campaign materials. A list of electors will be provided to all candidates. 25 out of 87 votes, or 28.7%, will be coming from Unit 174. Votes will be done electronically between August 15 and October 1, 2015.

June 2015 Sectional

Bob/Walter

The number of lunches for Sunday was based on past history. There is an opportunity to change this number up to 72 hours before the lunch. Policies and procedures need to be changed to ensure that the number of lunches is verified just before the event.

August 2015 4-Day Sectional

Beverley/John

Beverley Cheatham and John Caudill are responsible for this event. They stated that everything is in order for this event. There is a meeting with Marriott on July 24th to reaffirm the requirements of both parties.

Daniel Jackson stated that there will be a review of Google drive on the Saturday of this tournament one hour before game time. He will provide handouts.

November 2015 Sectional

Daniel/Bill

Bob Armstrong reviewed the flyer for this tournament. It was recommended that the flyer include where to enter the facility and a map be provided on the back of the flyer. It was also recommended that both volunteers and signage help direct bridge players to the correct location.

Selected Areas of Emphasis for 2015/Board Assignments

Group

Whirlwind Bridge - Walter Freitag stated that Learning Bridge in a Day will cost about \$3,000 to be paid by either sponsor or Unit 174. The main cost is bringing a certified teacher in from Atlanta. Another option is to have someone who lives in Houston become certified at a national bridge tournament. It was recommended that Walter pursue this event and January 30, 2016 be the date of the event.

Swiss Team Hand Records – Bob Armstrong, Chuck Ensor, and Daniel Leightman will meet to discuss and bring back recommendations to the full board.

Google Drive Training – Daniel Jackson will provide training at the next tournament.

Procedures Updates – All Board members should review policies and procedures to ensure that they reflect practice and make recommendations to enhance policies and procedures.



Communications – Nancy Strohmer stated that the Unit website and Constant Contact are the main ways we communicate information to our members, and Facebook to a lesser extent.

Annual Membership Meeting Process – Bob Armstrong, Walter Freitag and Paul Nimmons, the Parliamentarian, will meet to discuss and bring back recommendations to the full board.

I/N Report and Feedback Email and Starzec's Email

Nancy/Group

Nancy Strohmer stated that she just met with Sheryl Thomas to discuss I/N members. The booklet titled "Adventures in Duplicate" should be added to the I/N packet. Nancy Strohmer stated that she has dealt with the emails from Stephen Mast and Betty Starzec regarding recommendations and improvements to be implemented.

LSR 2016 & Schedule & Bracketed Swiss Grouping

Nancy/Bob/Group

Sandra Parker has recently agreed to be Hospitality Chair at this event. All other responsibilities had already been assigned.

Nancy Strohmer discussed having a 2 tiered event on Tuesday, but the board members decided this 2 tiered event needed to be put to rest.

Paul Cuneo discussed the future events at the Marriott in 2018, 2019 and 2020 will have a problem with parking due to tents being erected. Paul Cuneo will write up the problems to be incurred and potential solutions. This will be discussed at a future meeting of the Board.

The group held a discussion regarding bracketing. Currently, there are 7 teams in a bracket, except for the top bracket. The top bracket has the remaining number of teams.

Motion: That the Director in Charge decide how to break the teams into brackets.

The above motion was made by Beverley Cheatham and seconded by John Caudill. The motion was approved by all.

Motion: That a committee be assigned to study the problem of bracketing Swiss teams.

The above motion was made by Walter Freitag and seconded by Bob Armstrong. The motion was approved by all.

The board members assigned to this committee are Daniel Leightman, Nancy Strohmer, Bob Armstrong, and Chuck Ensor.

Motion: That a committee be assigned to review the issue of providing hand records for Swiss team events.

The above motion was made by Daniel Leightman and seconded by Bob Armstrong. The motion was approved by all.

The board members assigned to this committee are Daniel Leightman, Bob Armstrong, and Chuck Ensor.

New Business

Mentor/Mentee Club Game Requirements

Group

Westside Bridge Academy recommended that mentors be defined as anyone over 300 masterpoints and not affected by Life Master status.



Motion: That the definition of mentor be anyone over 300 masterpoints.

The above motion was made by Daniel Leightman and seconded by Daniel Jackson. The motion was approved by all.

Phones & Slow Play at Tournaments

Group

Nancy Strohmer stated that the Board will reinforce these items at the next dinner with the tournament directors.

Stanchions

John

John Caudill has reviewed options for stanchions and will summarize in an email to all board members to include pictures. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

Betty Friedman's Email

Group

Nancy Strohmer will respond to Betty Friedman and the board needs to reexamine after the next regional.

Executive Session

Nancy moved the meeting to Executive Session at 8:54 PM. The Executive Session lasted until 9:00 PM.

Future Board Meetings

The next Unit Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm at Westside Bridge Academy.

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was made by Chuck Ensor, seconded by Bob Armstrong and approved by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Freitag, Secretary

