



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

July 10, 2017

Tracy Gees

Call to order

Bill

The meeting was called to order at 6:56 pm. All directors were present - Bill Riley, Ken Hudson, Lauri Laufman, Nancy Strohmer, Dianna Gittelman, Daniel Jackson, John Caudill, Nancy Guthrie and David Henke. Also in attendance were Brigitte Sandifer and Paul Nimmons for a good part of the meeting.

Approval of minutes

Lauri

The June Board meeting minutes were submitted.

Motion – Nancy Strohmer made the motion to approve the June meeting minutes as presented.

The motion was seconded by John Caudill and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

Gary / Bill

The June financials were presented via email by Gary.

We are currently ~\$13,000 in the black despite Sectional losses of about \$2889 in April and \$2550 in June. Coffee cost dropped \$1800 at June Sectional and candy cost was down now that we have candy only at Hospitality table.

It was noted that the sanction fee for 2016 NAP has been paid in 2017.

The Scorecard fee of \$1500 was also discussed. An opt-in option for mailing the Scorecard had been proposed but Nancy informed the board that the district board did not approve the proposal.

Motion – Lauri Laufman made the motion to approve the financials for June.



The motion was seconded by Nancy Strohmer and approved unanimously.

The \$10/table holiday party reimbursement to clubs was discussed.

Motion – Lauri Laufman made a motion to continue the subsidy of a maximum of \$10 per table for holiday parties to unit clubs. Receipts for expenses are due by January 31 in the new year.

The motion was seconded by Nancy Guthrie and approved unanimously.

District Report

Nancy S.

- 1) LSR Roundtable - On Wed Jan 31 there will be a roundtable to address and assess problems that clubs and teachers might be having. It is hoped that getting together to discuss common issues and ideas can assist in substantially growing the membership of District 16. This should increase LSR attendance.
- 2) Membership – 3 areas have experienced positive growth of which Houston is included.
- 3) Club Director Course – Houston’s request for the Club Director’s Course be included at the LSR was approved.
- 4) GNT – Individual clubs will be allowed to run GNT qualifying games in an attempt to increase participation. A unit qualifying event is optional. Conditions of Contest will be distributed July 28th. Qualifiers will go directly to District.
- 5) Charity Grant Recipients - The grant recipients for the March 28 and 30 District 16 charity games were: Friends of the Family (Denton), Mowat-Wilson Syndrome Foundation (Houston) and Sick Children’s Clinic (Lubbock).
- 6) NLM Regional - The district allows 3/year. Currently, San Antonio holds one and Austin is considering this. Bill suggested that Unit 174 will consider trying one in conjunction with the fall sectional in 2018.

Old Business

2018 LSR

Bill

Lectures will be presented daily by nationally ranked players.
There will be a Dan Morse Day (date tbd) as well as a Teacher’s Appreciation Day (Friday).

For Intermediate/Newcomers, there will be hand evaluation sessions offered and this will be promoted as well as posted.



Event Sponsors and Event Naming information is going out. No change in cost for 2018 and Carol Winograd will be creating a web button for people to easily secure this information online. Bill Riley is the contact for anyone wanting to reserve an event.

Labels for members will be provided as one of our hospitality gifts to members attending the event. Logistics are still being worked out.

June, 2017 Sectional

John

The 2017 June Sectional Tournament reported a loss of \$2,500 which was ~ \$1,000 less than the June 2016 Sectional tournament. Had the entry fee been increased, the tournament would have broken even. This was a successful event overall with an increase in table count from the previous year from 620 to 640.

August 2017 Sectional

Lauri / Nancy G

An updated budget was presented based on changes made due to June Sectional feedback.

Things affecting changes included (1) cost of lunch being zeroed since no longer serving one, (2) rate for Sunday being reduced from \$15 to \$10 per session as a result of not serving lunch, (3) an ice cream hospitality break being added on Saturday, and (4) coffee serving size changed to 8 oz.

Revenue from the event is estimated at slightly over \$6000 based on attendance of 840 tables during the 4-day event.

Motion – Daniel Jackson made a motion to accept the updated budget.

The motion was seconded by John Caudill and approved unanimously.

Sunday lunch will be possibly staggered (by room and speed of play) to better accommodate both players and the Marriott in handling the anticipated additional business at our onsite concession and in the restaurant next door.

An ice cream hospitality break will be held on Saturday between sessions.

Daniel presented a new seating plan which will be sent to Kevin for evaluation and feedback so we can finalize our floor plan for this sectional.

Our hope is to set up (1) the Pair Games and 2-day Pair Championship event in the front room plus (2) relocate seating of lowest brackets away from areas with high traffic to reduce distractions created by those finishing earlier. We are also asking for a director to be required in this area for first 2 rounds and 80% of the time otherwise.

Ken is currently coordinating with Diligent to get the supplies to the venue on Tuesday August 8 (including the bidding boxes, which were all cleaned between the June and



August Sectional).

October Sectional - 2017

Dianna

Dianna stated that all is going according to plan. Flyers have been printed and are now being distributed.

She will be sending a diagram of the playing area for Daniel to create a table layout.

New Member Recruitment/Retention

Bill

Rob Burrige Info - Westbrook Intermediate School, in Friendswood, is one of two CCISD campuses housing the WAVE Program for Gifted and Talented students. As part of this program, every nine weeks students select an enrichment class called a "mini-course". For the past five years, Bridge has been offered in the fourth quarter by Dr. Rob Burrige, a research scientist in robotics and a member of the Clear Lake Bridge Club. Each year, Rob teaches 28 sixth- through eighth-graders the basics of bidding, card play, and defense. By the end of the class, students have played both rubber and duplicate bridge, and have a reasonable knowledge of the Standard American Yellow Card.

To encourage these young students of the game to explore club-level bridge, the Clear Lake Bridge Club waives entry fees for them to attend the beginner's Bridge Lab, usually run by longtime bridge teacher Dave Glandorf. Over the years, twenty or thirty students have participated. This year, CLBC has extended the offer to include the beginner duplicate games as part of this fee waiver, and we hope that some brave students will take advantage of this arrangement during the summer holiday.

Unit 174 Brochure – The board looked over a previous brochure and the board decided not to pursue updating or creating a new one at this time. As most of the information can be found online and quite a bit of the content changes frequently, it would not be cost effective.

Committee Reports

1) Marketing Committee

Nancy S / Paul Cuneo

The Longest Day event at Memorial City went well. During the morning, we had 4 tables playing bridge and while it tailed off in the afternoon, we had traffic all day. The event raised \$468 with no expenses charged to the Unit. The Apple game on the 19th raised \$282 so we are sending a check for \$750 to the Alzheimer's Association from the Unit 174 team. A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers.

We are investigating getting MiniBridge into after school programs this fall and summer camps in 2018. We have leads, but nothing firm.



A grant has been received from the ACBL to use towards the school program. Bill said that anyone with contacts in the school system should contact one of the marketing committee members.

2) Website and Information Committee Report

Nancy S

We are still monitoring web activity now that Apple DBC's are no longer posting game results on our website. While there was a decline in April to 3300 hits, we were happy to hear that May and June have trended back up to 3900-4000.

It was suggested that we add a button to our website so that we can easily find results for other area tournament results. Carol Winograd will be contacted to create this.

Unit Partnership Desk (Update)

Bill

Release date is still pending completion. There are some questions that have arisen. Bert Sheldon recently moved into the area from San Francisco where he was involved with an electronic desk. The board suggested that Bert Sheldon, Bert Onstott and Carol Winograd meet.

3) Club Connection

Bill

Bill discussed clubs that he would like us to visit and a schedule was presented to the board so that those who can make it, do so. Schedule follows:

Friday, August 4th - Bryan College Station

Tuesday, August 22nd - Sugar Land

Tuesday, September 19th - Clear Lake

Friday, September 29th - Livingston

Monday, October 2nd - Tracy Gees

Friday, October 20th - WBA

Tuesday, November 14th - BCoH

NAP 2017 Unit Qualifier

John

This will be held October 14-15 at BCoH. No lunch will be served. Budget presented.

Motion – Nancy Strohmer made a motion to accept the budget.

The motion was seconded by Dianna Gittelman and approved unanimously.

Unit Charity Games / Championship Games

Nancy S / Daniel

22 of 24 unit championship games have been scheduled for the year so far with Kingwood having the 23rd.

Daniel, Bill and Nancy S met regarding Unit Charity Games. We are allowed 4 per year. They proposed we create a Unit Charity Week December 11-15 with \$1 per entry from each game held December 11, 13, 14 and 15 going to S.E.A.R.C.H., our designated charity recipient this year. (Note: this will take place the week after STaC Week.)



Motion – Lauri Laufman made a motion to accept the proposed Unit Charity Week for games played on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the week of December 11-15, 2017.

The motion was seconded by Nancy Guthrie and approved unanimously.

New Business

Pianola

There is a webinar on Thursday afternoon being presented on Pianola which could be good for club managers as it allows for e-blasts within a 30-50 mile radius. More may follow on the topic of Pianola and how it might be utilized by our unit at a later date.

District 16 Election

Our unit board has been asked to determine how they will vote in the upcoming election for National ACBL Board of Directors.

Candidates are: Paul Cuneo and Steve Kornegay.

Total membership as of June 1 for Unit 174 is 2,624 and each board member's vote equals 1/9th of that total. We have been requested to advise if we will (1) vote at an election meeting or (2) by electronic voting. Voting takes place Aug 15- Sept 15, 2017.

After a short discussion, it was decided that we will each place our own vote online. Bill will notify the ACBL of our decision. The ballots will be sent by Email in August.

2018 (April) Election Sectional

Bill

The dates of the Election Sectional will now be May 4-6. The GNT will be held here again during this Sectional.

Our Annual Unit Meeting will be held Friday after the 2nd session. Bill has proposed that pizza be served and with a cash bar.

Executive Session

The Board went into an executive session from 10:47am to 11:24am.

New Business (continued)

Unit Voting

Bill

The board initially met in executive session but moved this content out of the executive session. Brigitte Sandifer, current UNIT 174 election supervisor, requested we better clarify what is considered a valid ballot by way of "write-ins", what is legitimate and what is not. Bill had requested clarification from the unit attorney, Buddy Hanby. His legal opinion is that the by laws assume that the write in candidate be eligible to serve on



the unit board. Voting for someone not a member of unit 174 would be similar to not voting for 3 candidates and hence be invalid according to our current bylaws.

Moving forward, we will add to each ballot that “any submitted write-ins on the ballot must be active members of our unit or the entire ballot will be disqualified”.

Bill will also send out an advisory notice on the web and in his president’s post about this issue.

ACBL Bridge Series Classes / Request from YMCA

Bill

There was a request submitted by the YMCA for instructors interested in teaching at two of their locations: Weekly Y, 7101 Stella Link, 77025 and the Trotter Y, 1331 Augusta Drive, 77057. Anyone interested, please let Bill know.

Slow Play

Bill

Evvie Gilbert had submitted information regarding slow play and how it has adversely affected her as well as others as a result of various situations and ultimately director calls at the June Sectional. She respectfully requested us to address how “slow play” incidents be handled moving forward to avoid unpleasant situations and with particular emphasis on making playing an enjoyable experience, especially for newer players who are the lifeblood of our organization.

The Board as a result is working to see that lower brackets be set-up first since they tend to take a little longer to play, instead of being set-up last.

In addition, the Director-in-Charge is being requested to keep someone nearby with good people skills in order to better help out with these sections, watch where slow play situations initiate and to maintain game flow.

Future Meeting Date

Next Board Meeting is August 7 at 9:30 AM at Tracy Gees.

Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Lauri Laufman that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded by John Caudill and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29am.



Respectfully submitted,
Lauri Laufman, Secretary

