



## Memorandum of Discussion

### ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

### Houston Bridge Studio

#### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. Present were Jolie Hess-President, Pat Levy-Vice President, Bert Onstott-Secretary, Paul Cuneo, Joyce Ryan, Bob Dowlen, John Erickson, Lauri Laufman, and Karen Nimmons.

#### Minutes of February board meeting

**Bert**

The minutes of the February meeting were approved by on-line poll.

#### Treasurer's Report

**Jim**

#### March Financials

Jim reported on the March financials. Some highlights:

- The bill for the meal for the fall Social Bridge event was paid in February.
- Current total assets are \$190,068.88.
  - Total in checking & savings accounts is \$170,705.31. Of that total, \$81,488.62 is reserved for the NABC; essentially all of that will be expended by the end of the NABC. After the NABC, the amounts in checking and savings will likely fall below \$100,000.
- The 2009 Lone Star Regional will probably return a profit of about \$7,000. This is much better than the expected \$4,000 loss.

Joyce Ryan pointed out that the cake and coffee for Lynne Graham Day has been charged to the Mary Lee Bentley Fund. Jim will make the correction.

**Motion: That the treasurer's report be accepted as revised.**

The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.



## Committee Reports

### Awards/Flyers

Karen

#### *Flyers*

Bert gave Karen 500 Election Sectional flyers and 200 Partnership flyers. Karen will distribute them to unit clubs and nearby tournaments.

#### *Awards*

Karen picked up 4 Life Master Plaques today. There are 68 left out of the 100 that were pre-paid for on May 8, 2008.

### Bridge in Schools

Natalie Wernet

There was no report from Natalie.

### Communications Committee

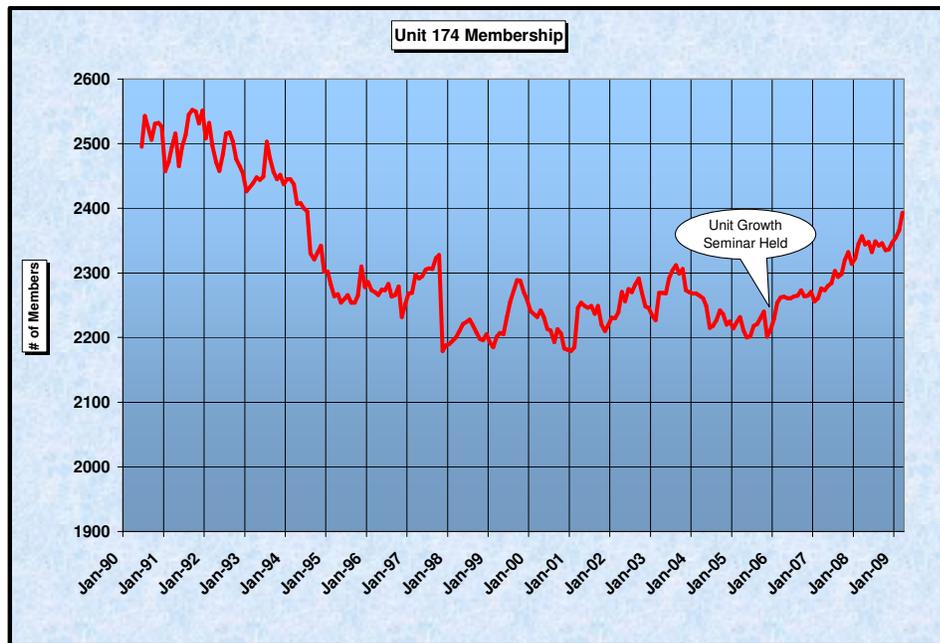
Jolie (for Betty Freedman)

Betty got a report from all but two of her committee members. Betty reported she is having difficulty finding time to send out welcome letters with unit pamphlets to new unit members. Jolie will ask Betty if she thinks we should ask someone else to help with this task.

### Membership

Bert

Membership is up 27 to 2,393, with 28 new members! This is the highest total since July of 1994 and 214 (10%) higher than the low point reached January 2001. Since last April, Unit membership has increased by 49.



With the NABC and the next Social Bridge event coming along soon, the outlook is certainly encouraging!



**Fund Raising****Bob**

Bob received a letter from Randall's saying they will be sending a check for \$60.36.

**Goodwill****Pat**

Pat hasn't sent out any cards since the last meeting.

**I/N, Education & Book Sales****Joyce***Book Sales*

Joyce has sold 14 books since the regional. She's ordering Diamond books for the upcoming year.

*Education*

There is nothing new to report.

**NAP/GNT****John***NAP*

Pat called BCOH regarding holding the next NAP Unit qualifying games but has not heard back. Paul will talk to the club.

*GNT*

GNT went well. Flight B went from 12 to 16, Flight C went from 2 to 3. Eight B teams and two C teams qualified to compete in Richardson over Memorial Day.

The Unit made about \$500 on the event. The Unit will subsidize any of our teams that qualify to compete at the National level, so this 'profit' will go away in that event.

**New Player Services****Paul**

There is nothing new to report.

**Pro-Am****Paul**

The Pro-Am will be on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**STAC****Bob**

There are no issues. The next Unit STaC will be in September.

**Supplies****Lauri**

Supplies are in order.

Lauri purchased 200 Standard Yellow Cards.

**Tournament Coordination****Pat**

Pat arranged for the rooms for the directors for the June tournament.



## Old Business

### Election Sectional

**Lauri, Bob**

Bob is in touch with the Choir booster club regarding the snack bar. This is the same group that did it last August.

Pat talked to the Stafford Center about a place to count the ballots on Sunday and store the ballot box. The Stafford Center said they weren't sure they had a suitable place. Jolie will visit the Stafford center on Tuesday to inquire. An alternative might be to count the ballots in the hotel room and store them in the Election judges' car between sessions.

The ad for the scorecard was sent to Ira.

### June Sectional

**Karen, John**

Karen has her committee chairs; partnership will be Karen Tabak, hospitality will be Marcella Thomas, and I/N will be Joyce Ryan.

Karen is going to call it the "Jolly June Sectional". She will get the information to Arlene so she can put together the flyer and the ad for the Scorecard.

### August Sectional

**Paul**

It turns out we don't have the Stafford Center for August. They booked another group in during the weekend of our tournament. They aren't available for any other dates in August.

To try to find a site for the tournament, Paul and John have been working on a couple of options.

John Zilic has been working with the Berry Center. They were interested but had to get permission from Second Baptist Church, which holds a service there on Sunday, to adjust the space they use. It turns out Second Baptist is unwilling to move, so the Berry Center is not an option.

Paul and John also talked to the Westchase Marriott. It turns out the Marriott is interested in having us, under these conditions:

- The dates will have to be August 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>; a week later than currently scheduled.
- We can have the Grand Pavilion and the Grand Foyer for \$4,500, service fee included, for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is the same playing space we have for the Regional.
- The hotel will provide no concessions. They will provide water stations as they do for the Regional. The hotel will provide coffee, but we'll have to pay for it. It will be free to our players.
- The hotel will have a special lunch and dinner menu for \$10 on Friday and Saturday.
- They will give us an \$89 bridge room rate. We will only guarantee 10 room nights for Friday and Saturday nights. They'll be glad to add rooms after the first 10 are sold.
- The sticking point is the Sunday meal. Their cheapest "box lunch" is \$20 plus 23% service charge. The cheapest buffet is \$25. We simply can't afford that. To get around this, Paul proposed that we not provide a lunch on Sunday and



charge a reduced price for the Sunday game. We would have to provide a break for people to go out between the afternoon and evening sessions.

The board liked the idea. Paul will proceed to finalize an agreement with the hotel.

### **On-Line Partnership Desk**

**Bert**

190 total users have registered; 38 since February 1<sup>st</sup>. 300 partnership requests have been posted; 68 since February 1<sup>st</sup>. The request statuses break down as follows:

Open	146
Partnership made using the web site:	15
Request cancelled by user	116
Partnership made not using the web site	11
Request expired:	12

This probably isn't very meaningful, since there isn't anything that forces people to update their request statuses.

### **Programs for Clubs**

**Joyce**

There is nothing new to report.

### **Social Bridge Event**

**Bert**

We will be using Bellaire Methodist, which is on Bellaire just inside the loop, for the next event. The date remains April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The committee is meeting Tuesday at 3:00 to get details of the classes and the schedule finalized. Once that's done, we'll proceed to make flyers, make a web site, start visiting social bridge groups to get the word out, and signing up participants.

The timing is a little tighter than last time; we have to be out of the facility by 4:00 pm firm. That means we'll have to cut things a bit shorter this time.

### **2009 Lone Star Regional**

**Jolie**

The regional will make about \$7,000, which is about \$11,000 better than the budgeted \$4,000 loss. There were several contributors; revenue was about \$17,000 higher than projected due to the higher than expected table count, and expenses were only \$6,000 higher than projected due mainly to lower than expected charges for caddies, the daily bulletin, free plays, and hotel rooms.

Jolie is still working with the hotel to resolve some issues with their bill.

### **ABA Contract**

**Paul**

Paul has everything under control.

### **Stafford Center Down Payment**

**John**

We have made down payments for May and June.



## New Business

### Procedures for Speakers

Joyce Ryan wrote up guidelines for the speaker program at the Lone Star Regional. The board felt they should be incorporated in the Unit Procedures Manual.

**Motion: That we adopt the guidelines for handling the speakers for the annual Lone Star Regional proposed by Joyce.**

The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

Bert will add the procedures to the manual.

## Executive Session

The board spent 10 minutes in executive session.

## Future Meeting dates

Future board meeting dates are April 6<sup>th</sup>, and May 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Adjourn

**Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.**

The motion was seconded and approved at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted



Bert Onstott

Secretary

