



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

May 6, 2013

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to order

Paul Cuneo

The meeting was called to order at 9:18 am. Directors present were: Beverley Cheatham, Paul Cuneo, Chuck Ensor, Joyce Gore, Kathy Hughes, Errol LeCesne, Nancy Strohmer and Bill Riley. Jim Woodward, treasurer of the unit and Steve Reichek were also present. Tom Martinsen was absent.

Election of President

Paul Cuneo

Chuck Ensor was nominated and approved by acclamation.

Chuck Ensor assumed the chair of the meeting. The Board thanked Paul for his tireless efforts as president last year.

Election of Officers

Chuck Ensor

The Board nominated and approved by acclamation the following.

Vice President: Beverly Cheatham
Secretary: Bill Riley
Treasurer: Jim Woodward

Jim has now served for 9 or 10 years and accepted the position for one more year but asked the board to look for a new person. The board thanked Jim for his efforts and agreed to search for a new person next year and would make this an agenda item for the planning meeting.

Approval of minutes

Chuck Ensor

Motion: That the online April minutes be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Woodward

Jim presented the Treasurer's Report which included Unit 174 Balance Sheet as of May 5, 2013, showing Current Assets of \$104,640.87. Paul noted that the total will decrease as the amount



due to the speakers from the very successful unit sponsored "View from the Top" educational session May 4th and 5th has not been dispersed.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

District Report

No meeting held since last board meeting

Old Business

2014 LSR

Paul Cuneo

Flyers were distributed at the Gatlinburg regional. However, the board needs to set the chairs of the tournament so the complete flyer can be distributed at other upcoming regionals, which will be attended by the board members – specifically Denver and Cleveland.

April Sectional

Paul Cuneo

Paul reported that the table count was up from 620 to 686.5 this year.

There were a few minor glitches. The food line was slow on Sunday. The hotel was supposed to fix the burgers and not require the players to do so. The proportion of chicken to hamburger was not estimated correctly as the hamburgers were gone for the players at the end of the line. There was some confusion about the Vegetarian meals and need for tickets. Hospitality did not show up on time on Friday.

The board felt that the tournament was a huge success and commended the chairs and the members who helped with the tournament.

New Business

Chuck Ensor

Petition for Special Membership Meeting

Nancy Strohmmer

The president moved to new business and asked Steve Reichel if he would like to discuss the petition. The board received a petition, which read:

The undersigned wish to call a special meeting on August 18, at the Awesome August Sectional tournament. The purpose of the special meeting is to remove the sentence in Article VI Unit Board of Directors, Section 4. **"Each vacancy must be voted for on each ballot or said ballot will not be counted."**

Steve stated that he knew the board wanted to do what the membership wanted and would like to see that article changed. He stated that he had 225 members who signed the petition. He stated that the current system favored the incumbents since most people did not know 3 people for whom they wanted to vote but recognized incumbent names. They voted their candidate and then the incumbents since the ballot required that 3 people be voted. He handed each of the board members a slip with his recommendation for the wording change. The wording was:

ARTICLE VI

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4: Every member in good standing of the unit is entitled to one vote for each director to be elected. All ballots shall be secret. ~~All winners vote totals will be made public and~~



~~non-winners can request their vote totals.~~ Any nominee so desiring may have a witness present at the counting of the ballots. Candidates have 48 hours to ask for a recount.

Nancy Strohmmer reported that she and 2 other individuals reviewed the signature petition. They reviewed the petition independently and each came to the same conclusion. They could only recognize 169 signatures of the 175 because the signature was illegible and there was no corresponding printed name of the member for those signatures. The members who agreed by Email were disqualified. There was a discussion whether Emails can be authentic but Paul stated that was a moot point because the bylaws require a signature and have not addressed Email.

Based on the above assessment, the petition according to the bylaws did not have the sufficient number of members – (regardless if we use 174 based on current membership or 175 based on last month's total) to require a special meeting.

There was an extensive discussion of the need about changing the number of votes required for the ballot to be valid. Paul Cuneo reported that he tried to ask several members why the original bylaws were written as such but no one that he asked nor anyone else at the board meeting could determine why the bylaws were written in that manner. Several board members agreed that they would be agreeable to changing the requirement of 3 votes.

The board noted that the recommended change in the wording was not exactly what was on the petition. Several board members expressed that the addition of the oversight phrase and recount was suggesting that there was some distrust in the system and or the people. Bill pointed out that the same language did exist in bylaws of other Texas units.

Chuck asked if any of the board would like to make a motion to have a special meeting in August. None of the board members volunteered to make a motion to move forward with this proposal.

Nonetheless, there was discussion about addressing this issue at the upcoming board-planning meeting.

Steve Reichel and Jim Woodward left the meeting at this time.

Old Business

Chuck Ensor

June Sectional

Chuck Ensor and Joyce Gore

The tournament will be June 14-16. Chuck and Joyce will be the co-Chairs. The schedule will be the same as the April Sectional except for Sunday; there will be a bracketed Swiss game. The flyers are ready.

August Sectional

Paul Cuneo

The co-chairs will be Nancy Strohmmer and Beverly Cheatham. The board approved the schedule previously. Chuck is to submit to ACBL. The budget will be presented at the next meeting.

NAP/GNT

Beverley Cheatham

There was a discussion about the scheduling of the unit events and the Email complaint about only one session. Paul stated that the ACBL allows only 1 session per unit. The board did recommend that we look at the dates from other units and not to schedule on same day so our members can attend another unit's session if they are not able to attend our qualifying games.



Bridge in Schools

Errol LeCesne

Errol distributed a typed report to the board. He is working on establishing a relationship with the following professional organizations:

National Education Association
Houston Federation of Teachers
Houston Association of Retired Teachers

Errol asked for help to identify anyone in the school system that could facilitate entry into the schools. Bill expressed an interest to work with this program when he fully retired.

Unit Sponsored Lessons

Paul Cuneo

The session "View from the Top" on May 4-5 was very well attended and received positive comments from both the attendees and the expert speakers. Paul will present the final financial report later but the program generated income.

Marriott Contracts

Paul Cuneo

There still exists several minor glitches unresolved but the Marriott is working on these and should not cause any problems. Several Board members expressed interest in attending the next meeting with the Marriott in order to learn the process and assume the some of the responsibility.

October Sectional

Chuck Ensor

Errol LeCesne and Bill Riley were appointed as co-Chairs as both live in the Humble area. The contract with the center has been finalized. The Sunday meal needs to be arranged. The board overwhelmingly expressed that they really liked Demeris.

Youth NABC Proposal

Nancy Strohmer and Paul Cuneo

A proposal to support the youth for the NABC was circulated to the board by Email prior to the meeting.

The proposal was as follows:

ACBL Unit 174 is Offering a Subsidy for the Youth NABC

Subsidy amount: \$300/ person to 4 qualifying players
When will it be paid: After participation in the Youth NABC is verified
Qualifications: ACBL members 19 years old or younger when the event is played (August 1 2013)

How to Qualify:

- 1. Play 2 sessions in the 0-49 Saturday pairs events at the June Sectional with the same partner.*
- 2. Finish with an average for the 2 sessions with a minimum of 50% and be the top two youth pairs participating in the event.*
- 3. Life masters are not eligible for Masterpoints in the 0-49 event, but must play to be eligible for the subsidy*

MOTION: That the proposal to support young players circulated by Email be approved. The board voted unanimously to approve.

Replacement of Margot Leonard

Kathy Hughes

Rhonda Bryant has agreed to assume the responsibility for the new members.



New Business

Bridge Items advertising

Nancy Strohmer

Bob Munger requested permission to advertise the 150 "vintage" bridge books for sale on the unit web site. The board discussed this at length but felt that we did not want to establish a precedent and allow advertising on our web site.

MOTION: That the request to advertise be denied. The board voted unanimously to approve.

New Board Assignments

Chuck Ensor

Supplies	Tom Martinsen
Bridge in Schools	Errol LeCesne
Tournaments/Sanctions	Bill Riley (After June1)
Flyer Distribution	Nancy Strohmer / Bill Riley
Awards	Kathy Hughes
STAC	Joyce Gore
GNT/NAP	Tom Martinsen / Beverley Cheatham
Social Bridge	Beverley Cheatham
Communications / Publicity	Nancy Strohmer

Board Planning Meeting

Chuck Ensor

Tentatively the board agreed on May 20th and to ask Norm Gautier to facilitate. Chuck will get back by Email if Norm agrees. Joyce Gore was assigned to reserve room at the Tracy Gees.

Texas Star

Chuck Ensor

The board voted unanimously for the candidate and will send the name forward.

Executive Session

The board was in executive session for 0 minutes.

Future Meeting dates

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, at 9:30 AM at Tracy Gee Community Center.

Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 11:15 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Riley, Secretary

