



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

May 5, 2014

Tracey Gee Community Center

Call to order

Beverley Cheatham

Beverley Cheatham, president of unit 174, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Directors present were: Rhonda Bryant, Beverley Cheatham, Chuck Ensor, Kathy Hughes, Daniel Jackson, Tom Martinsen, Bill Riley and Nancy Strohmer. Gary Hercules, treasurer for unit 174, and Paul Cuneo, vice president of district 16 and tournament site coordinator for unit 174, were present. Bill Riley arrived after the April minutes were approved. Bob Armstrong was absent.

Approval of minutes

Bill Riley

Bill had emailed copies of the April minutes to the Board members.

Motion: That the April Minutes be approved.

The above motion was made by Nancy Strohmer. The motion was approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

Gary Hercules discussed the new format of budget presenting profit/loss by class, for example putting sectionals in one column.

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

The above motion was made by Chuck Ensor. The motion was approved by all present.

Gary reported that the 2013 Income tax was filed late and the IRS has sent a letter for \$4600 penalty. Jim Woodward and he are drafting a letter asking for an exemption. Gary felt that there is a good chance that this penalty could be abated.

District Report

Paul Cuneo

No District meeting has been held. The next meeting will be at the Austin Regional.

1. D16 received \$16000 from the Grass Roots fund. This must be spent on promoting the NAP and GNT events. Paul asked for ideas.



2. Attendance at the Flights A & C GNT qualifying event at the Houston Sectional was down versus a year ago. Jim Thurtell thinks we should discontinue Unit qualifying in Flights B & C and just have anyone who wants to compete come to the District event. He'll bring this up in Austin.
3. At the Dallas NABC a Director, Henry Cukoff, collapsed and died. He was given CPR unsuccessfully. There was no defibrillator on site. Our D16 Directors believe we should ensure that a defibrillator is available at our tournaments and that they are trained to use it. The cost per unit is between \$1300 and \$1500 for a portable unit.
4. D16 has been approached by Jim Gordon (Bridge Buddy) about holding a regional tournament at a resort in Cancun. I'm working with him and D9 (Florida) on the option of either getting an additional Regional sanction from ACBL or using one of D9's sanctions. Jim and D9 see this as a viable option versus ACBL's Regional at Sea.

Old Business

April Election Sectional

Paul Cuneo / Kathy Hughes

Paul has discussed some of the problems encountered in April and these will be addressed at the pre-conference meeting for the June sectional.

There was a discussion about the lower attendance at the sectional, probably due to the closeness of the Dallas NABC.

LSR 2015

Beverley Cheatham / Nancy Strohmmer

Beverley discussed that she has a new flyer. There was a discussion about the hospitality. Nancy reported that Marriott has agreed to provide the brownies and cookies. There will be 2 more hospitality events – possibly recognizing retirement. Several local restaurants have donated some gift cards for door prizes. The board agreed to try to arrange for massages to be done. Nancy and Tom will identify a vendor.

June Summer Sectional

Nancy Strohmmer

Nancy reported that everything is ready.

August 4-day Sectional

Beverley Cheatham / Daniel Jackson

Beverley developed the new flyer with the new events – single session Swiss in the evening.

November South Shore Sectional

Chuck Ensor / Rhonda Bryant

Chuck Ensor reported that a new flyer will be made. He will present the budget at the next meeting.

Future Tournaments

Paul Cuneo

Paul reviewed his progress in finding another venue for the Oct 2015 tournament. Local hotels and the Racetrack were not willing to rent at a price that we could afford. None were willing. Paul discussed moving the August tournament in 2015 earlier to avoid the conflict with NABC in Chicago. Paul also discussed moving the LSR in 2017 to avoid conflict with the Super Bowl which will be held in Houston that year.

Motion: That the Fall Sectional in 2015 to be held at the Westchase Marriott be approved.



The above motion was made by Chuck Ensor. The motion was approved by a 6 to 1 vote.

Motion: That the dates for the August Sectional in 2015 at the Westchase Marriott be moved to July 30th to August 2nd 2015 to avoid conflicting with the NABC be approved.

The above motion was made by Chuck Ensor. The motion was approved by all present.

Motion: That the dates for the Lone Star Regional in 2017 at the Westchase Marriott be moved to Feb 6th to Feb 12th, 2017 to avoid conflicting with the Super Bowl scheduled to be played in Houston be approved.

The above motion was made by Bill Riley. The motion was approved by all present.

GNT / NAP

Tom Martinsen / Bill Riley

Bill provided an outline. Dates need to be set up for the UNIT qualifying. Chuck reported that there are only 2 choices based on the tournament schedule.

STAC

Bill Riley

The UNIT STAC is in October.

2015 I/N Sanctions / UNIT Championships

Chuck Ensor

Chuck reported that the I/N tournaments for 2015 are set. The dates for the I/N tournaments for 2015 have been submitted. Chuck will try to set these up in the next few weeks but one of the dates conflict with a regional in the district.

UNIT supported Bridge Workshop

Chuck Ensor / Kathy Hughes

This will be done in September – probably 3rd or 4th weekend.

Whirlwind Bridge

Beverley Cheatham

Paul presented several ideas to market the event.

Recommend we market primarily through flyers. Try to get them placed at:

1. All Bridge Clubs
2. Community Centers
3. Country Clubs, Golf Clubs, Tennis Clubs
4. Libraries
5. Adult Education centers/Community Colleges
6. Provide them to Bridge Teachers for distribution
7. Online

Needs:

1. Registration person
2. Develop Flyer or modify ACBL supplied
3. Chair for Flyer Distribution
 - a. Develop lists for flyer placement
 - b. Recruit volunteers to place flyers

Cost - Budget \$500 for flyers



District Charity

Nancy Strohmer

Nancy updated the Board about the progress. The committee will choose 6 charities for \$5,000 each.

ACBL dues for Rice University Students

Beverley Cheatham

Bob Armstrong was assigned to evaluate further. The board felt that we should prepare a flyer for the students as to let the students know the benefits of membership in the ACBL – reduced fees etc. Bill Riley agreed to put together a flyer for Eddie Wold to distribute.

New Business

YAHOO Group and Google Drive

Daniel Jackson

Daniel discussed the use of the YAHOO group and identified those who were on line. He announced that he will become the owner as Paul Cuneo is the current owner.

New Assignments

Beverley Cheatham

Beverley reported that the education liaison needs to be a board member. There was discussion that Jim Woodward is the current Registered agent. Jim agreed to continue for a while.

Bridge In Schools / Education Liaison – Bill Riley
Photographer - Alford Fortier

Warehouse

Gary Hercules

Gary discussed several issues about the storage in the Woodlands. He reported that the cost was slightly higher because of the distance and the inconvenience. The other issue is that we pay County taxes and have filed for Harris County. Now the storage is in Montgomery County.

Motion: That the Board meeting be closed and move to executive session be approved.

The above motion was made by Chuck Ensor. The motion was approved by all present.

Executive Session

The board was in executive session for 30 minutes.

Future Meeting Dates

There was a discussion about meetings in the morning and evening. April through June will be in the morning. For July through March the meetings will alternate between evening at the Houston Bridge Studio and morning at the Tracey Gee Community Center. Final schedule will be brought next week.

The next UNIT Board meeting will be held on Monday June 2nd, at 9:30 AM at Tracey Gee Community Center.

The planning committee meeting will be held at the Tracey Gee Community Center on May 19th at 9:30 AM.



Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was made by Nancy Strohmer and approved at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Riley, Secretary

