



Memorandum of Discussion
ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting
May 4, 2015
Westside Bridge Academy

Call to order

Beverley Cheatham

Beverley Cheatham, president of Unit 174, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Directors present were: Bob Armstrong, John Caudill, Beverley Cheatham, Daniel Jackson, Bill Riley and Nancy Strohmer. Gary Hercules, treasurer for Unit 174, was also present. Walter Freitag and Chuck Ensor were absent.

Beverley then asked that each person present introduce themselves to the new board member.

Election of Officers

Beverley Cheatham

President – As Nancy Strohmer was the only nominee, she was elected by acclamation.

Vice-President – As Bob Armstrong was the only nominee, he was elected by acclamation.

Secretary – As Walter Freitag was the only nominee, he was elected by acclamation.

Approval of minutes

Bob Armstrong

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

Motion: That the April Minutes be approved.

The above motion was made by Beverley Cheatham and seconded by Daniel. The motion was approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

The treasurer's report was presented by Gary. Gary Hercules had sent them by Email. There was a discussion about balances. Gary stated that he believed the report was accurate but the Verifier's report had not been received as of the time of the meeting, he felt that the final approval be delayed until that report was received. The Board members present agree with Gary and tabled the approval until the June meeting.

District Report

Paul Cuneo

No District report.



Old Business

April 2015 Sectional

Nancy/ Chuck

Nancy presented the summary of the results of the April Sectional including a listing of the Pros and Cons of the event. The table count was 656.5, up 23.5 tables over 2014. Gary Hercules stated that a large number of winners of section tops did not pick up their prize (\$2 bill) for the win. He suggested two things; first have the photographer (Al Fortier) remind them to do so and second, he will bring the information to the June Sectional so that those people who haven't done so can pick up their prize.

There then was a discussion about how to award the prizes in the two session pair's games. The final consensus was we should decide how to award prizes (section tops only or section tops plus overalls) at the June Board Meeting.

LSR 2016

Nancy

During the Annual Meeting, two issues were brought up. The first was the number days Gold Rush Pairs/Mid-Flight were scheduled became a topic of discussion. A motion was made and carried during the Annual Meeting to reduce the number of Gold Rush Pairs/Mid-Flight sessions. The Board is considering the motion and will make a decision after further investigation,

The second topic of discussion pertained to the evening event starting times. It was suggested that they start at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30. The board discussed the issue and determined that the start times should remain as scheduled, 7:30. The reasons were:

- Moving to 7:00 pm would require starting the morning session at 9:00 am to maintain the break times between morning and afternoon and then evening events. Such an early start is not practical because of the wide area of residents' locations.
- Without moving the morning start time from 10:30 to 9:00, the evening session would have to start at 7:30 to leave the break between afternoon and evening events long enough to keep a reasonable amount of time for meals.
- The tournament directors have requirements for the length of breaks that require the spacing between events that are consistent with the current schedule.
- A poll taken during the Election Sectional showed that the majority of the players asked preferred 7:30 as the evening start.

June 2015 Sectional

Bob/Walter

Everything is moving along. A meeting is scheduled with the Marriott on the 15th to finalize arrangements. Bob requested a list of the local restaurants that are providing deals for the players so we can reconfirm that they are still willing to do so.

August 2015 4-Day Sectional

Beverley/John

Beverley brought up the topic of compensating three clubs for closing on Thursday. In 2014, the Board approved compensation of \$200 to each of the clubs who elected to close. Only two elected to do so. She then asked for opinions for the rest of the Board about continuing offering the compensation. The general consensus was to continue the offer.

Motion: That the offer of compensation for closing on Thursday be continued this year.

The above motion was made by Bill Riley and seconded by John Caudill. The motion was approved by all present.



Beverley then presented a budget for approval.

Motion: That budget for the August Sectional be approved.

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

November 2015 Sectional

Daniel/Bill

Daniel reported the following:

- Budget is still being developed
- Meals at the venue will be \$12 which is \$1 less than the Marriott rate.
- Committee volunteers were still to be determined.
- The draft of the flyer was passed out. It needs correction of dates and typos.
- The team is still negotiating with the local hotels.

Bill reported that he had negotiated to lesser rate for hotel rooms if we pre-pay for the directors rooms. It would result in a savings of \$20 per room. Bill said he did not know whether or not directors would be able to collect their Marriott points if we pre-paid for the rooms. He said he would check on that and present his findings as part of the budget approval request at the June Board Meeting.

November 2016 Sectional

Chuck

Nancy reminded the Board of the motion passed in the April Board Meeting. She then reported that Chuck and Paul had negotiated a rate that was only \$100 more than we paid in 2014 and that Chuck had confirmed that the lighting had been upgraded.

Motion: That the November 2016 Sectional be held at South Shore Harbor.

The above motion was made by Beverley Cheatham and seconded by Bill Riley. The motion was approved by all present

GNT/NAP, STaC

Bill

Nothing to report. Bill said he would remind the "B" qualifiers that the next round would be in Richardson.

Selected Areas of Interest

Group

Bob confirmed that he would post the Preamble change approved at the 2015 Annual Meeting,

Bill said that the Club Connection for Sugar Land would be Tuesday June 2nd.

Unit Calendar

Chuck

Chuck reported via email that all of the 2016 I/N Tournaments have been sanctioned.

ACBL Senior Trials

Daniel/Bob/Bill

Daniel reported that Shawn Quinn had received an additional request from the ABF asking that we host not only the Senior Trials but also the Regular Trials. The impact of this addition would require an order of magnitude more effort on the part of volunteers. As a result, the committee unanimously recommends that we say no to the request.

Motion: That the response to the request be no.



The above motion was made by Daniel Jackson and seconded by Bill Riley. The motion was approved by all present.

As a follow-up, the Board agreed to report back to Shawn that should the request go back the original request for the Senior Trials only, the Board would reconsider,

Mentor/Mentee limits

Beverley/Bob

Bob emailed what was in the Procedure Manual about the subject. The wording does not restrict individual clubs from raising the limits but should they choose to do so, the compensation will still be restricted to the limits in the Procedure Manual. There was then conversation about how the current limit of 300 points for mentees was established.

Motion: That effective June 1, 2015, the clubs be allowed to set higher limits for mentees but will only be compensated for those mentees at the current level of 300 points.

The above motion was made by Bill Riley and seconded by John Caudill. The motion was approved by all present.

Replacement for Conduct & Ethics Chair

President

Nancy recommended that the Board select Dan Leightman as the new Conduct & Ethics Chair. The consensus of the Board was that Nancy should ask Dan if he was willing to accept the position.

New Business

Houston NABC

Daniel

Daniel reported that he had an interest in try to get an NABC back in Houston. He had discovered that Marriott was constructing a new facility in downtown Houston with more than enough space to accommodate a national event. Previous attempts to have Houston selected were blocked by hotel rates were too high when compared with other cities. After talking to the Marriott, it was also learned that the hotel rate in Houston was still too high.

Paul Cuneo has agreed to revisit Marriott in about six months to see if anything has changed.

New Board Assignments

Nancy

Nancy passed out a list of assignments and then went through that list explaining why certain people were chosen. With agreement of the Board, these assignments will be posted on the Unit website.

Replacement of Vacant Board Position

Nancy

Nancy suggested that the position be Dan Leightman. She explained that a number of people in the general membership had suggested that the Board look at candidates who lost the election in April be strongly considered as replacements.

Motion: That Dan Leightman be offered the position as the replacement for the vacant position on the Board.

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



Replacement of I/N Coordinator

Nancy

Based on her experience with I/N while working with Kathy Hughes, Nancy suggested Sheryl Thomas as someone who would be a good replacement.

The consensus of the Board was in favor of Nancy approaching Sheryl about becoming I/N Coordinator.

Board Planning Meeting

Nancy

Nancy has sent out information about the Annual Board Planning Meeting to be held Monday, May 18 at Tracy G. She also passed out the schedule of meetings to be held for the next year. Daniel Jackson requested that the meetings for June through August be held in the evenings at Westside Bridge Academy. The Board agreed with Daniel's request. Because of vacations, it was decided to hold the July meeting on the 20th instead of the 6th.

Other Issues

Nancy

Nancy said she had been approached by a senior citizen who requested that a social bridge group of seniors be given some lessons and a supervised game. She had talked several teachers and all had been receptive to providing the requested service.

Nancy stated she was going to start the practice of a letter from the President on the web page on a monthly basis.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Future Board Meetings

The next UNIT Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 7:00 pm at Westside Bridge Academy.

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was made by Bill Riley, seconded by Beverley Cheatham and approved by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Armstrong, Secretary

