



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

October 12th, 2009

Houston Bridge Studio

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:52 pm. Present were Paul Cuneo, Vice-President, John Erickson, Secretary, Lauri Laufman, Robert Reichek, Kathy Hughes, Karen Nimmons and Joyce Ryan.

Also present for part of the meeting were Jim Woodward – Treasurer, Brigitte Sandifer and Bert Onstott.

Minutes of September Board Meeting

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

Treasurer's Report

Jim submitted financial reports dated October 12, 2009. He also submitted the Checks and Transactions report for the period April 6 thru May 4, 2009. The latter had been inadvertently omitted from previous submissions.

Motion: To approve the October 12 financial reports and the Checks and Transactions report for the period April 6 thru May 4, 2009.

The motion was seconded and approved.

John will send copies of these financial reports to Norm Gautier (the financial verifier),

Committee Reports

Bridge in Schools

Brigitte

Brigitte reported that after trying to get a teaching program started in several public schools, it appears that the principals do not have an interest in it. She suggests that it will be more productive to concentrate on private schools. The ACBL offers an incentive for teachers who teach in schools, but with certain limitations. Brigitte suggested the unit consider cash incentives to encourage teachers to volunteer more when classes do not qualify for an ACBL stipend.



Brigitte also requested a list of all certified bridge teachers in our unit.

Club Reimbursements

Bob

Pursuant to last month's motion to reimburse rent-paying unit clubs which closed during the Houston NABC, several clubs submitted reimbursement requests and documentation. These will be processed in the coming weeks.

STAC

Bob

The recently completed STAC was a success with 24 clubs participating, a new record, and 710 tables in play. The new procedure of having ACBL employee Patty Johnson be the Director in Charge presented a few challenges. While Patty was sometimes not readily available to help club directors, she was pleasant to deal with and got things resolved. One question that Bob will be asked to investigate is how stratified master point cut-offs are determined.

2009 Pro-Am

Paul

All is in order for this event to take place on Thursday, October 22.

Member Communications Committee

John

Betty Freedman submitted a report showing that attempts were made to contact 40 members.

Membership

John

Unit membership totals 2,460 as of September 30. Although this is a decline of 7 in total membership, we had 14 new members join our Unit in the past month.

I/N, Education & Book Sales

Joyce

54 books have been sold since the last meeting, making a total of 308 for the fall classes. Classes are particularly strong in Clear Lake (Dave Glandorf) and The Woodlands (Norm Gautier).

The latest novice newsletter went out the week of October 15, promoting the STAC, the 99er sectional at the Studio, and the Halloween Sectional.

NAP/GNT

Robert

NAP - Preparations are complete for the Unit finals on November 14-15. Pat has received letters from the managers of the BCOH and the Studio agreeing to NAP conditions.

Supplies

Lauri

Supplies are being ordered prior to the Halloween Sectional. The supplies loaned to Beaumont will either be returned to the warehouse prior to the sectional, or brought to Humble on Friday morning, October 30.

Three bids were reviewed by the board for the construction of two new rolling cabinets. A bid from CW Woodworking was preferred, although details and cost of painting have yet to be worked out.

Motion: To approve acceptance of the CW Woodworking bid up to a maximum of \$1,500, provided Lauri can work out painting details.

The motion was seconded and approved.



Old Business

Lone Star Regional

Paul

We will again be giving pencils and clips, stickers and convention card holders as registration gifts. Players will also be able to order stick-on labels with names and ACBL numbers. The Board agreed to again raise revenue by selling rights for event naming at the same rate as last year.

Jacoby Award

Congratulations to Bert Onstott for receiving this award. It is a small token of recognition for the outstanding volunteer work Bert has done for this unit and is continuing to do.

Goodwill Nominee

Karen

Thanks to Karen for her preparation of an excellent letter to the National Goodwill Committee, extolling the virtues of our nominee.

On-line Partnership Desk

Bert

There are now 290 registrants, with 21 new registrants in the past month. 81 partnership requests were issued in the past month.

Unit web site

Bert

Search capability is now fully functional. The list of NAP qualifiers has been posted. On-line flyers have been posted for the Unit NAP games, the Unit STAC and the Pro-Am.

District Meeting

Bert

Bert attended the District 16 meeting in Fort Worth on September 5. Some highlights are:

Texas Star nominations are due by year end and should be sent to Scott Humphrey.

A Tournament Standards Committee of George Pisk, Mark Bumgardner and Bob Butterfield will formalize standards for NAP and GNT.

The East Texas and Magic Valley Units will hold a split Regional on November 15-21, 2010.

Donna Compton is the new Scorecard Committee Chairman.

The Central Texas Unit held a free event for social bridge players at the Temple DBC. 21 ½ tables participated.

Current Assets in the District treasury are over \$38,000, a marked improvement over recent years.

District membership is 8,733 as of September, a 6.3% in five years. Unit 174 is showing a 9.7% increase.



New Business

October Sectional

Paul/Lauri

Paul has engaged Top Hat caterers to provide the Sunday meal. A vegetarian meal will also be offered, although participants are asked to reserve in advance. The Humble Civic Center will be hired to provide free coffee for players throughout the tournament. The cost is estimated to be about \$450 for the coffee. In addition the unit will be renting water coolers and providing bottled water throughout the tournament.

Sectional Tournament Sites

John

There is still no update on the Shriners' permitting needs, so we are unable to confirm booking the April 23-25, 2010 weekend for the Election Sectional. John will try to arrange a board member tour of the facility for Monday, October 26th at 10:00 am. John also contacted the Stafford Centre about reserving the April 1-3, 2011 weekend for the following year's Election Sectional. We would be required to put down a deposit of \$3,150. A decision will be deferred until after the Board inspects the Shriners facility.

Nominating Committee

Paul

It has been proposed that Chairman Dianna Gittelman will also have Mary Jane Kinnebrew, Lew Levy, Joyce Gautier and Chuck Gillis on the committee.

Motion: That the Nominating Committee be accepted as proposed.

The motion was seconded and approved.

New Player Services Coordinator

Kathy

Connie Burnett was approached about filling this important position.

Motion: To approve Connie Burnett as the New Player Services Coordinator.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Head Caddy

Paul

Abbie Le Cesne has agreed to become the new head caddy effective with the October Sectional.

Unit Growth Seminar

Joyce reviewed elements of the Unit Growth Seminar:

- Improved communication with members
- New player services
- Mentor programs
- Zero tolerance

It seems that the point most in need of improvement in Unit 174 is zero tolerance. We are not quite clear on what should be done when there is a situation involving rudeness. Some new players are feeling unwelcome when encountering such a situation. Also, the yellow (smile) cards have disappeared from some of the bidding boxes, and some newer players may not be aware of how and when to use them.



Texas Star Award

The board was asked to consider possible nominees for this award. The deadline is January 1, 2010.

Board Nominees

It was decided that board nominees' pictures and resumes should be ready for publication in the January Scorecard.

Job Descriptions

Pat

Board members should familiarize themselves with each of his/her assignments by reviewing the Procedures Manual found in box.net.

Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Erickson

Secretary

