

♠ ♥ Unit 174 - HOUSTON ♦ ♣
Memorandum of Discussion
ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting
September 12, 2011
Houston Bridge Studio

Call to Order

Bob

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by president, Bob Dowlen. Directors present were: Beverley Cheatham, Paul Cuneo, Chuck Ensor, Joyce Gore, Jolie Hess, Kathy Hughes, Errol LeCesne, and Robert Reichel. Also present were Bert Onstott, Jim Woodward, Bill Baker, Marsha Bernstein, Dianna Gittleman, and Betty Starzec.

President Dowlen welcomed the member guests and noted that Chuck Gillis was unable to attend but sent an e-mail of concern relative to the SNACK BAR at the Regional issue. The guests expressed concerns relative to:

- ◆ Unethical behavior at the last Sectional Tournament. (Bob invited the group to bring forward their complaint with specifics and witnesses.)
- ◆ Restoring a concession stand or Snack Bar at Regional Tournaments because the majority of the membership are senior citizens and can't make the long walk to the restaurants and coffee shop. They also felt the majority of the members want a snack bar.
- ◆ Make sure the promised internet vote on the snack bar is worded properly and set a firm date when the vote will be taken since it has been promised since April.
- ◆ Opening Annual Meetings to the members and allowing members the opportunity to stand up and ask questions of the Board.
- ◆ Follow "Robert's Rules of Order" at Board and Annual meetings.
- ◆ Go back to using "older caddies" and not encourage kids to miss school.

Approval of Minutes

Bob

A written copy of the August minutes was circulated for review prior to voting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2011 meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Jim

Jim Woodward presented the Unit 174 financials as of September 11, 2011 showing Total Assets of \$107,287.11.

A motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

District 16 Report

Bert

Bert Onstott advised the Board that the Unit Membership was down 16 from a year ago even with 18 new members. He thanked the Unit for its membership retention action plan and asked to get monthly progress reports.

Bert announced that ACBL has a new CEO named Robert Hartman. Hartman will focus on attracting new members and keeping old ones. Bert also noted that sectional tournaments can have a special game; such as, Junior Fund or International Fund or Charity game that would pay silver points but at Regional rating. Texas Star nominations are due by the end of the year; therefore, nomination write-ups and photos should be sent to Scott Humphrey.

The District will have a Foundation Fund game on October 21st. Individual clubs will decide to participate. Jim Thurtell is taking Jim Bauer's place as District GNT coordinator. NAP participation is up 28% at the club level and Units can qualify up to 60% of its members, which is a 10% increase. The SCORECARD is operating at a profit and soon back issues will be available on-line.

Internet

Bert

The **Unit Forum** is now up and running with 88 registered participants. User guidelines were also presented.

Old Business

Bob

Membership Growth Plan

A copy of the Unit Membership Growth Plan that was previously developed by the Board was distributed by the president.

A motion to accept the Membership Growth Plan was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Humble Sectional

Beverly

Beverly shared gift ideas; such as, Prescription Bottles with labels stating "Take 2 upon going down when doubled and vulnerable..." and labels for convention cards. It was noted that we don't usually have gifts for sectionals but since it was already in the approved budget it was okay.

Lone Star Regional Tournament

Paul/Bob

A proposed budget (\$151,016.00 Income, Expenses \$143,529.16 with a net profit of \$7,486.84) and protocol was presented for the 2012 Regional.

The three-part "Protocol for spending against the 2012 LSR Budget" keeps committee chair expenditures within budget; require advance approval by

both co-chairs for all expenditures that exceed the budget; and the Board will be given updates in November, December, & January.

A motion to accept the Budget and Protocol was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

The web-site wording for 2012 LONE STAR REGIONAL CONCESSION STAND OPTIONS was approved with one abstention as follows:

- Option 1. Provide free coffee, hot water, ice prior to each session, and utilize the Starbucks in the hotel lobby as our "Concession Stand". Have a soda machine in the playing area vending sodas at \$2.00 each.
- Option 2. Operate a Concession Stand in the playing area. Subsidize coffee, tea, and soda at \$1.25 including tax for 10 ounces of coffee or tea and 12 ounces of soda. Soda is the same selection as the machine, just smaller sizes.

The cost for the Director's Course was set at \$100.

The cost for the Better Bridge Teacher Course was set at \$125.

New Business

Bob

Name change "Ethics Committee" to "Discipline Committee".

The following administrative procedure change to 1.3 Disciplinary Committee Chair was also presented:

The Unit Charging Party will submit to the Disciplinary Committee Chair those complaints that satisfy the requirements of section 2.1.1 and 5.22 of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. The Unit Board of Directors will select the Unit Charging Party. In the event that the Unit Board of Directors has not selected a Unit Charging Party, then the Unit President will act as the Unit Charging Party.

The Disciplinary Chair will appoint a 3-5 person Disciplinary Committee which will include the Disciplinary Chair. The Disciplinary Chair will serve as Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will hear the evidence, determine if a person has committed an offense warranting discipline, and determine punishment.

The Disciplinary Chair will conduct all disciplinary hearings in accordance with the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. The Disciplinary Chair will notify all parties in writing of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee and send a written hearing report to the ACBL Disciplinary Coordinator in Horn Lake, MS.

A motion to approve the name change and adopt the administrative procedure was approved unanimously.

The Board decided to resubmit its 2010 nomination again for the 2011 Goodwill National Award

The president will make a call for “Members with Marketing Backgrounds” to come forward and form a committee to develop a comprehensive marketing plan for the unit.

The idea of a **Four Day Sectional** was rejected by the Board because there were no known advantages that would outweigh the negative impact on clubs that would lose their Thursday game.

Bridge in Schools

Errol

Errol reported that 10 volunteers signed up at the Sectional and many took literature with promises of support for the program. The “Volunteer Recruitment Center” was deemed a success because it got the word out that we do have a program in place.

A list of thirteen schools and individual contacts was shared with the Board along with a copy of the contact letter and ACBL flyer “Benefits of Bridge” asking them to do personal follow-up where possible.

Errol will be teaching two classes (20 students each, middle & high school) at STEM Academy starting Monday, September 19th. Cornerstone Academy will start a middle school class with Renee Hamilton, HISD teacher on the 29th.

In response to a question, Errol will look into getting teacher’s manuals for teachers of future programs

Executive Session

The board was in executive session to discuss an ethics committee Issue

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously at 9:35 pm.

Errol LeCesne, Secretary