



## **Unit 174 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Draft pending approval

Sunday, April 3, 2016  
Houston Marriott Westchase

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:45pm by the President of Unit 174, Nancy Strohmer. Board members present were Bob Armstrong, John Caudill, Beverley Cheatham, Chuck Ensor, Walter Freitag, Daniel Jackson, Dan Leightman, Bill Riley & Nancy Strohmer. Gary Hercules, Treasurer, was present.

### **Approval of 2015 Minutes**

Copies of the minutes were available at the meeting for the members to review by Walter Freitag, Secretary.

**Motion: That the minutes of the 2015 annual meeting minutes be approved.**

The motion was seconded and approved by all present.

### **Financial/Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Treasurer's report were available at the meeting for the members to approve by Gary Hercules, Treasurer.

Gary gave a quick overview of the 2015 financial statements. The gross revenue for 2015 was just over \$300,000 with about 54% of it coming from the Regional (LSR) tournament. The unit realized a \$29,000 profit for the LSR which subsidized the losses in other services that the Unit provides. The unit's loss for the year was \$1,000. The cash balance varies throughout the year. It is the highest on the last day of the LSR and is the lowest at the end of the year. The year-end bank balance was \$74,000. Gary was available to answer any questions.

**Motion: To approve the financial report as submitted.**

The motion was seconded and approved by all present.

## Old Business

### *Unit Report- Nancy Strohmer*

--The membership is steadily increasing and is the highest in history. As of March 1, we have 2604 members versus 2517 March 1, 2015.

--What is interesting is that approximately 80% of our membership is under 1000 MPs & 20% has over 1000MPs. These numbers certainly come into play when we are planning our tournament events.

--There were 7,950 tables in play in tournaments (STaC's included) during 2015.

--About a year ago, the board began the Club Connection program—the purpose of the program was to “connect” with the membership & the clubs themselves. Since its inception, we have visited 15 of the 25 clubs—reaching out over 150 miles from the farthest points—special recognition goes to Bill Riley for spearheading this program.

--As part of our effort to increase membership, we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> LBIAD event bringing 98 participants. Special thanks to Walter Freitag for organizing & Betty Starzec for teaching

--We held our 3<sup>rd</sup> ABA-ACBL game co-chaired by Gloria Cooper from ABA and myself from ACBL drawing 39.5 tables. 25% of the ABA Houston membership attended! Many thanks to all the volunteers from both organizations as well as Brigitte Sandifer for the use of her Club's bridge pads.

--Every two years, we produce a membership directory—special recognition to Bill Riley & Bert Onstott for putting this together...also, we would like to thank our sponsors: Alice Travel, Mildred Breed, Bridge Club of Houston, Clear Lake Bridge Club, Go Away Travel, Harrison Law Office, Joyce Ryan & Westside Bridge Academy.

--At the LSR, we hosted the inaugural District 16 Teacher Appreciation Day which will be held every year at the LSR recognizing a “Teacher of the Year”—thank you, Betty Starzec, for leading this effort.

--At the LSR, we were honored to have 3 dignitaries from the ACBL attend & play—President Ken Monzingo, Senior Director Sylvia Hardin & CEO Robert Hartman.

--There were 3 clubs from our Unit that made it in the top 100 out of 3,030 Clubs in Table Counts in the ACBL for 2015—Westside Bridge Academy - 17th, BCOH - 58th and Clear Lake Bridge Club - 79th. This is a significant achievement for Unit 174.

--A special thank you to Bert Onstott who has been the Unit's Webmaster for the past 8 years—congratulations to Jeff Parker who will be assuming the role.

### **The board set the following priorities to determine the schedule for the 2017 LSR:**

----has a likely chance of increasing participation in the LSR

----includes the request for more open pairs as discussed at the 2015 Election Sectional

----contains other events that were very popular in past LSR's

----continues Gold Rush Pairs

----is more attractive to elite players/professionals

----reflects comments made in the recent survey

The Pairs game schedule will be as follows:

Gold Rush – 5 days – Tue-Sat

Monday Charity Pairs Only

Sunday Open Pairs Only

Mid Flight – 3 Days – Tues, Thurs & Sat

A/X/Y – 2 days – Wed & Fri (A:5000+/X:3000-5000/Y:0-3000)

Single Session Pairs (both side games and I/N) will be available every session

The Team schedule at this point is as follows:

*Two Session Swiss:*

Monday Bracketed Swiss is planned for 2:30 and 7:30

Tuesday – Saturday Bracketed Swiss are planned for 10:00 and 2:30

Sunday will have Strati-flighted Swiss planned for 10:00 and TBA

Having stated this, the committee comprised of Bob Armstrong, Daniel Jackson & Bill Riley, is still working to find a Knockout schedule that would be most attractive to the elite players/professionals.

We will continue to keep you informed about the progress of putting together a schedule that satisfies the priorities previously mentioned.

**The Board conducted a Tournament Schedule Survey this year...the results are as follows:**

The survey results indicated that two thirds of the responders preferred Friday events to be held as morning and afternoon events. The 2017 Lone Star Regional is scheduled with Friday Open Pairs as a morning and afternoon event. The Board is analyzing the feasibility and practicality of Friday morning scheduling for future sectionals as well.

A majority of the responders preferred that morning events begin at 10am and afternoon events start at 2:30pm. This schedule will produce an ending time to permit non-bridge activities in the evening as preferred by a majority of the responders. The 2017 Lone Star Regional events are scheduled at 10am and 2:30pm.

Approximately 60% of the responders indicated a preference for at least some Open Pair events without a mid-flight event. At the 2017 Lone Star Regional, there will be Pair events every day with mid-flight events on three days. An analysis of the responses to Question 8 indicates approximately 75% of the respondents with under 3,000 Master Points would play in a team event or not at all on the days when no mid-flight pairs was scheduled.

A special thanks to Dan Leightman for drafting the survey and managing the task!

Also, we would like to thank Mildred Breed, Gary King & Bob Morris for being the “Prizes” for filling out the survey. The winners were as follows—they will have the honor of playing in a club game with the following elite players:

1. Mildred Breed—Ted Bain
2. Gary King—Pat Bunn
3. Bob Morris—Terri Orlean

One of our members, Julie Gianelloni Connor proposed an Illness Ejection policy. The board, with the input of the ACBL, looked at the pros & cons of this proposal.

Pros:

- Most of the players are older
- Some have significant medical issues that increase their risks to get an infection & to suffer serious consequences from an infection

Cons:

- Our tournament directors are not doctors
- Difficult to identify who is sick
- Almost impossible to implement

In response to Julie's proposal, we will be implementing the following at all tournaments:

- Provide hand sanitizers in the playing area
- Encourage players to use the sanitizers
- Encourage players who are possibly at higher risk to wear a face mask
- Urge players who are ill to stay home
- Communicate to tournament directors to remove people who are visibly in distress or ill

## **New Business**

Before the awards were announced, Nancy thanked the BOD for all their hard work during the past year. As many know, when one is elected to the board one agrees to accept a lot of responsibility and hard work. In addition to hosting the Regional, the Unit has 4 Sectionals which are sometimes as large as regionals in some units. In addition to that, the Unit has approximately 20 other areas of events that it sponsors such as the STaC's, GNT, NAP, 20 charity games a year, several 49 199 & 299r tournaments & many others. Nancy commented that we were indeed fortunate to have such a hard-working group of volunteers serving on our BOD this past year.

### ***Recognition of Achievements – Nancy Strohmer***

Heartfelt thanks were extended to Beverley Cheatham & Chuck Ensor for their dedicated service for the past 6 years on the BOD serving in many areas including President. Awards were presented to each.

Nancy then announced the 2016 Unit Goodwill recipients: Ruth Wood & Carol Wilson. Each was presented with an award.

Other Achievements that deserve recognition:

Congratulations to the following:

Joyce Gore...the recipient of the Texas Star Award

Dan Morse...a member of the winning Baze Senior KO Team @ the 2015 Fall NABC

Diamond LM: Anthony Bianchi, Robert Matcha, Shatrugna Prasad & Betty Starzec

Emerald LM: Terry Currie

Platinum LM: Tom Breed, Pat Levy

Also recognized was Mary Pat Gentry for winning the Ace of Clubs award for the past 10 yrs.

A HUGE congratulation was extended to Eddie Wold who was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame! Eddie was presented with an award.

## ***Presentation of Awards – Nancy Strohmer***

### **Mini-McKenney**

0-5: Victor Tong

5-20: Meng-Chr Tsai (Michael) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Nationally

20-50: Frederick Gregory

50-100: Holli Mast

100-200: John Caudill

200-300: Odis Nolte

300-500: Sheila Harrison – 7<sup>th</sup> Nationally

500-1,000: Kitty Wong

1,000-2,500: Patti Mullendore

2,500-5,000: Betty Starzec

5,000-7,500: Mary Pat Gentry

7,500-10,000: Tom Breed

Over 10,000: Eddie Wold – 6<sup>th</sup> Nationally

*Mini-McKenney Awards*—photos were taken individually and as a group.

### **Ace of Clubs**

0-5: Victor Tong

5-20: Meng-Chr Tsai (Michael) – 1<sup>st</sup> Nationally

20-50: Alan Adams

50-100: Sandra Lehner

100-200: John Caudill

200-300: Odis Nolte

300-500: Sheila Harrison

500-1,000: David Russell – 4<sup>th</sup> Nationally

1,000-2,500: Jeffrey Kroll – 4<sup>th</sup> Nationally

2,500-5,000: Mary Anne Woessner

5,000-7,500: Mary Pat Gentry

7,500-10,000: Pat Levy

Over 10,000: Ed Groner

*Ace of Clubs Awards*—photos were taken individually and as a group.

A HUGE thank you was extended Bill Riley for putting together the PowerPoint part of the presentation today!!!

Nancy announced the Election results naming the winners in alphabetical order and hearty congratulations were extended to all:

Mildred Breed, Ken Hudson, Bill Riley

### **Adjourn**

**Motion: That the 2016 annual membership meeting be adjourned.**

The motion was seconded and approved by all present.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13pm.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Walter Freitag,

Nancy Strohmer

Unit 174 Board Member