



ACBL Unit 174 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2018

Houston Marriott Westchase

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Unit 174 President Nancy Strohmer.

Minutes

Copies of the minutes from last year's annual meeting were made available at the meeting.

Motion – To approve the minutes as submitted.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Financial/Treasurer's Report

Copies of the unit's financial report were made available at the meeting by Gary Hercules, Treasurer.

Gary stated that at last year's meeting that he shared the unit reported a \$9,000 loss and the LSR provided \$20,000 less income than had been expected.

He challenged the board a month earlier to work these numbers back up and was pleased to report the unit finished the year with an overall \$8,400 profit, which is a \$17,000 improvement over the previous year.

This difference is attributed in part to increased attendance at sectionals and the Lone Star Regional as well as cost savings measures taken by the Board. Furthermore, he said that this was the first year that he remembered where the total of the four sectionals were in the black. This year's ending bank balance was about \$56,500 compared to \$51,000 last year.

Motion – To approve the financial report as submitted.



The motion was seconded and approved.

Old Business

Unit 174 Report

Nancy Strohmer presented the following report:

--The membership is just slightly less than last year's. As of April 6, 2018, we have 2,585 members versus 2,619 on April 6, 2017.

--There were 7525 tables in play in tournaments (STaC's included) during 2017...which is 1600 more than last year.

--Our 2017 charity of choice was SEARCH. They provide hope, create opportunity and transform lives for thousands of men, women and children who are trying to break free from the cycle of poverty and homelessness. In two days of charity games, we collected almost \$2000 to give to this worthy organization.

--The Club Connection program is active. The board has visited over half of our clubs to "connect" with the membership & the clubs themselves. Currently, we have over 30 clubs, the most ever!

--Our 5th ABA/ACBL event was well attended—John Caudill, Gloria Cooper, Sheryl Thomas and Brigitte Sandifer did a great job!

--Thanks to David Henke and Bert Onstott for putting together the new directory...also, we would like to thank the sponsors: Alice Travel, Bridge Club of Houston, Clear Lake Bridge Club, Dan Leightman, Fish Gallery and Westside Bridge Academy.

--As part of our effort to increase membership, we held a special 0-5 game on Wednesday at the LSR. Special thanks to Nancy Guthrie and Joyce Ryan for organizing!

--At the LSR, we hosted the second District 16 Teacher Appreciation Day which recognizes a "Teacher of the Year"— Congratulations to our very own Gary King for being this year's recipient! Thank you, Betty Starzec, for helping with this event.

--For the first time, we held a two-day Big Texan Lease-Laird Championship Pairs event at the LSR with cash prizes totally underwritten by our most generous member, Larry Laird—thank you!!!

--At the LSR, ACBL President Jay Whipple attended. After the tournament, we received an email from Jay in reference to the tournament survey results: "Congrats on a stellar tournament: at 95% Satisfaction this is an A+ Tournament. IMHO it was a spectacular event.... the hospitality and recognition awards were an important part!"



--There were 3 clubs from our Unit that made it in the top 100 out of 2,854 Clubs in Table Count in the ACBL for 2017—Westside Bridge Academy - 18th, BCOH - 55th and Clear Lake Bridge Club - 66th. This is a significant achievement for Unit 174!!!

New Business

Nancy thanked the entire board for all its hard work and reiterated all the events the unit hosts annually which include the Regional, four Sectionals plus approximately 20 other events that we sponsor including the STaC's, GNT, NAP, 20 charity games a year, several 49, 199, and 299r tournaments.

She reminded us how Hurricane Harvey affected many of our members and that we should keep all who are still recovering in our thoughts.

Bill Riley was thanked for his 5+ years of board service and for being our President in 2017 until Harvey. Ken Hudson was commended for stepping in as interim president for keeping things running smoothly.

Nancy recognized outgoing board members John Caudill and Dianna Gittelman for their service and then graciously thanked the whole membership for letting her serve as president as well as her husband Hans for his support.

Carol Winograd was thanked for her continued dedication to keeping our website fresh and current as well as Carol Wilson for both being our Scorecard editor and immediate past unit newsletter editor. Nancy welcomed Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt as the new editors.

Nancy gave shout outs to election officials Danny and Brigitte Sandifer, Sandifer and also to Brigitte for changing out playing cards at many tournaments this year, committee members Catherine Miller, Mike Hofmann, Buddy Hanby, Bob Dowlen, Al Fortier, Dan Leightman, Allison Ochsner, Paul Nimmons, Bert Onstott and our dependable Treasurer—Gary Hercules.

Our three members who represent us on the National level were next spotlighted: Paul Cuneo as the District 16 Delegate on the ACBL Board of Directors and currently also the Chair of the search committee for a new ACBL CEO, Betty Starzec as the American Bridge Teacher's Association President and an Education Foundation Trustee and Nancy Strohmer as a Charity Foundation Trustee.

Nancy then recognized Dr. Rob Burrige, who brought a busload of students to play in our tournament on Friday. Nancy shared that Rob is a member of the Clear Lake Bridge Club and research scientist in robotics who has been teaching bridge as a volunteer for the last 6 years at Westbrook Intermediate School in Friendswood as one of its



enrichment classes. The membership applauded Rob for this positive effort to promote bridge with our youth.

Speaking of encouraging bridge with our youth, Nancy also thanked Eddie Wold and Mary Jane Kinnebrew for their ongoing efforts at Rice University! Both have stimulated the interest in bridge for a multitude of students.

Ken Hudson thanked Nancy Strohmer for stepping up to take on the President's role and chairing the 2018 LSR. He said that Nancy has been a great president, role model and mentor to me and all the Board members. Nancy's passion for bridge along with her dedication in giving back to our unit is phenomenal. He concluded by applauding her for her service to the Unit and wished her well in her endeavors on the District board knowing she will continue to do a great job.

With that, Nancy then received a standing ovation.

Recognition of Achievements

Gary Hercules and Carol Winograd were presented as the 2018 Unit 174 Goodwill recipients. This award is intended to recognize and honor District 16 players who exhibit a spirit of courtesy, kindness and tact at the bridge table were announced and presented with their lapel pins: .

The Board presented individuals in our unit who have achieved the rank of Grand Life Master with a personalized award.

Overall Rank	Filtered Rank	Name	City	St/Prv	Country	Points
4	1	Eddie Wold	Houston	TX	US	71624.62
48	2	Dan Morse	Houston	TX	US	28195.54
53	3	John Zilic	Houston	TX	US	27551.49
104	4	Robert Morris	Houston	TX	US	21399.25
144	5	Thomas Peters	Grapeland	TX	US	18717.13
150	6	Shawn Quinn	Sugar Land	TX	US	18398.69
154	7	Mildred Breed	Cypress	TX	US	18197.60
331	8	Joe Quinn	Sugar Land	TX	US	12598.69
358	9	Esta Van Zandt	Deceased, 2008		US	11815.67
381	10	Georgiana Gates	Houston	TX	US	11425.23
421	11	G Robert Nail	Deceased, 1995		US	10663.09
460	12	Jack LaNoue	Deceased, 2006		US	10088.84



Other Achievements that deserve recognition are as follows & we would like to extend congratulations to all:

The 2018 Texas Star Award was presented to Nancy Strohmer. This award honors those Unit volunteers who work steadfastly at the Unit level to promote bridge and further Unit activities. It is given by the District.

Diamond LM: Jeffrey Kroll, Bobby Maynard, Ralda St. Pierre, and Vern Schmidt

Emerald LM: Shirley McKee

Eddie Wold and teammates who won the Baze Senior KO team event at the Fall NABC in San Diego (2017).

Lauri Laufman presented the Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs winners while Ken Hudson and Nancy presented the awards. Of note, when Ed Groner was announced as the over 10,000 winner of the Ace of Clubs award there was a moment of silence honoring his memory followed by very loud applause as Jeff Groner came up to receive his father's award.

Election Results

Nancy thanked Bill Riley for doing an excellent job on the PowerPoint production.

Election Results—First Nancy thanked Karen Nimmons, our Nominating Committee Chair, and her committee for putting together a stellar slate. Also, Nancy recognized our Election officials, Brigitte and Danny Sandifer—thank you!!!

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

Jack LaVigne, Kathleen Malcolmson and Sheryl Thomas.

Adjourn

Motion: That the 2018 annual membership meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Laufman, Unit 174 Secretary

