



ACBL Unit 174 Annual Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2019

Houston Marriott Westchase

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Unit 174 President Ken Hudson.

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 last year (2018) at the Regional, we had 3,045.5 tables. We were 70 tables over the previous year at the 2018 Election Sectional. The rest of 2018, the table count was down 12%. Nationally, the loss was 5%. The trend for 2019 is going down. We are down about 157 tables with the 2019 Regional and Election Sectional combined.

2018 Profit and Loss Statement reflects: Revenue, \$333,800; Expenses: \$282, 500; Retained Revenue of \$51,300.

In addition to operating expenses, we have purchased \$10,300 in fixed assets; new guide cards, new stanchions, 2 new timers, new speaker system, and 30 sets of new boards.

Current Bank Balance: \$114,000 (an increase of \$56,491) from the year ended 2017.

The Board is implementing some programs which will service the membership:



- Sectional table fees for the summer and fall will be \$11 for weekdays and Saturdays and \$10 for Sundays.
- Program for an expert review of hands after special sessions
- A destination tournament in the fall at Moody Gardens

Motion – To approve the financial report as submitted.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Old Business

Unit 174 Report

--The membership is just slightly less than last year's. As of March 7, 2019, we have 2,476 members versus 2,585 on April 6, 2018.

--There were 7,586.5 tables in play in tournaments (STaC's included) during 2018 which is 60 more tables than last year. Our 2018 LSR was very successful and with over 3,000 tables played ensured an additional regional tournament for District 16.

--Our 2018 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 \$1,700 to give to this worthy organization.

--The Club Connection program is very active. The board has visited over half of our clubs to "connect" with the membership and the clubs themselves. Currently, we have 33 clubs in our Unit and over the last 18 months, the Board has conducted 11 connections. Thank you, Nancy Guthrie, for coordinating.

--At the 2019 LSR, we hosted the third District 16 Teacher Appreciation Day which recognizes a "Teacher of the Year". Congratulations to Buck Buchannon from Dallas for being this year's recipient! Betsy DuBose and Julie Halperin were the nominees from Unit 174. Thank you, Betty Starzec, for helping with this event.

--For the first time, we held two Mini-Soloway events at the LSR for the top bracket. The event was a big hit with the players and we are looking at holding the event again next year.

--At the LSR, ACBL President Russ Jones attended. Russ was very complimentary of the Unit's hospitality, held a Q&A session, and hosted an evening reception for players.

--At the LSR, we had the first Best Practices workshop conducted in the Unit. There were 17 attentive attendees.



--There were 3 clubs from our Unit that made it in the top 100 out of 2,805 Clubs in Table Count in the ACBL for 2018: Westside Bridge Academy - 10th, Clear Lake Bridge Club – 60th and BCoH – 88th. This is a significant achievement for Unit 174!

--Our 6th ABA/ACBL event will be Saturday April 27th at Westside Bridge Academy starting at 1:00. Sheryl Thomas is chairing this event and we are expecting a large game.

New Business

Proposed By-Law Change:

Change Article VI Unit Board of Directors, Section 4 to: Every qualified member shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each Director to be elected. All Ballots shall be secret. A member may exercise one or more of the votes to which the member is entitled, and unexercised votes shall not affect the validity of votes that have been exercised; but a member may not cast more than one vote for the same candidate.

The proposed by-law change was read to those in attendance in addition to being displayed on the screen - copies being available on the stage. Discussion followed with members speaking both for and against the issue. Ken then called for the vote and the proposed by-law change passed.

Ken thanked our incredible Board for working so hard for the Unit! In addition to hosting the Regional, we have 4 Sectionals which are sometimes as large as regionals in other units. In addition to that, we have approximately 20 other areas of events that we sponsor such as the STaC's, GNT, NAP, 20 charity games a year, several 199er, 299er, and 499er tournaments and many other areas.

HUGE thanks to our webmaster, Carol Winograd, who works daily on our website to keep it fresh and current—thanks also to Allison Ochsner. Ken stated: “I really do think that we have the best website in all of the ACBL!” And, to Carol Wilson who is our Scorecard Editor—thank you for your comprehensive segments—you make U174 proud! We are grateful to Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt for publishing our Unit Newsletter which is crammed with information and published monthly.

There are many more who deserve shout-outs: our election officials Brigitte and Danny Sandifer, 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.

Three of our members represent us on the National level: Paul Cuneo as the District 16 Delegate on the ACBL Board of Directors and he is also the Chair of the search committee for a new



ACBL CEO; Betty Starzec is the American Bridge Teacher's Association President and an Education Foundation Trustee; and Nancy Strohmer is a Charity Foundation Trustee. Unit 174 is well represented on the National scene!

Recognition of Achievements

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2018 Unit 174 Goodwill recipients: Betty Freedman and Bridgette Sandifer. This award is intended to recognize and honor District 16 players who exhibit a spirit of courtesy, kindness, and tact at the bridge table. Congratulations to you both!

The 2018 Texas Star Award for Unit 174 was given to Betty Starzec. The Texas Star Award was established in 1995. The award honors those Unit volunteers who work so steadfastly at the Unit level to promote bridge and to further Unit activities. Each Unit Board selects the winner of the award. Betty was truly deserving of this award and we are happy to be able to name her as our 2018 Texas Star Award winner.

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

- Diamond LM: Jane Armstrong, Tony Haddad, Daniel Jackson, Joyce Ryan, Randall B Lake, and Vic Sowers
- Emerald LM: Mary Pat Gentry and Philip Grothus

Presentation of Awards

Mini-McKenney

0-5: Rao Chalasani – 6th nationally

5-20: B Haznedar – 43rd nationally

20-50: James Sells – 7th nationally

50-100: Susan Morrow – 6th nationally

100-200: Russell Chandler – 38th nationally

200-300: Marsha Doyle – 21st nationally

300-500: Jack and Jeanette Dean – 24th nationally

500-1,000: Tom Hogle – 63rd nationally

1,000-1,500: Thomas Rush – 11th nationally

1,500-2,500: Dolores Aquino – 14th nationally

2,500-3,500: Jimmy Breihan – 27th nationally

3,500-5,000: Tony Haddad – 30th nationally

5,000-7,500: Phillip Grothus – 82nd nationally

7,500-10,000: Jack LaVigne – 51st nationally



Over 10,000: Eddie Wold – 18th nationally

Ace of Clubs

0-5: Rao Chalasani – 3rd nationally

5-20: B Haznedar – 61st nationally

20-50: James Sells – 2nd nationally

50-100: Susan Morrow – 1st nationally

100-200: Ann Dahn – 20th nationally

200-300: Sandi Mills – 82nd nationally

300-500: Jack and Jeanette Dean – 28th nationally

500-1,000: Tom Hogle – 15th nationally

1,000-1,500: Steven Bell – 21st nationally

1,500-2,500: Dolores Aquino – 30th nationally

2,500-3,500: Ariel Leibovitz – 18th nationally

3,500-5,000: Harry Elliott – 46th nationally

5,000-7,500: Mary Pat Gentry – 32nd nationally – Congratulations on winning this for 13 years in a row!

7,500-10,000: Shirley McKee – 27th nationally

Over 10,000: Pat Levy – 102nd nationally

Ken thanked the outgoing board members, Lauri Laufman and Betty Starzec. Both Lauri and Betty stepped into Board positions and have worked tirelessly on the Unit's behalf. After serving the last 3 years on the board, Ken, too, is going off the Board as well—he especially thanked everyone for letting him serve as president. He said, “It has been fun, challenging, and a big learning experience for me”.

Jack LaVigne polled the attendees as to whether they preferred bracketed for all levels or hybrid. Hybrid is where the A and X play a stratified team game and the rest of the field plays in a bracketed as usual. With a show of hands it appeared that there were more in favor of the straight bracketed game.

Election Results

Ken thanked Steve Reichel, our Nominating Committee Chair, and his committee for putting together a stellar slate of candidates. Ken announced the winners in alphabetical order: **Cindy Cox, Lauri Laufman, and Clif Rice.**

Adjourn

Motion: That the 2019 annual membership meeting be adjourned.

The motion was unanimously approved.



Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Guthrie,
Unit 174 Secretary

