



ACBL Unit 174 Annual Meeting Minutes

Draft pending approval

**Aug 25th, 2020
Go-To Webinar**

Call to Order

Jack LaVigne

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Unit 174 President Jack LaVigne. Jack welcomed, thanked, then gave Webinar participation instructions to the attending membership.

Minutes

Copy of the 2019 Annual Minutes were made available on the Unit 174 Website.

Motion to approve the April 7th, 2019 Minutes as submitted was made by Karen Nussbaum – Seconded by Kathleen McDougall. **Motion carried**

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

A copy of the unit's 2019 Financial Report was made available on the Unit 174 Website by Gary Hercules, Treasurer. Due to a malfunction on Gary's microphone the Treasurer's report was given by Jack LaVigne.

Attendance for the 2020 Regional was 3,052, up from 2019 by 5%. The attendance for sectional and regional tournaments in 2019 was down 10%.

At the end of 2019 the Profit and Loss Statement reflects: Income - \$301,176, Expenses - \$264,618, Net - \$36,558.

In addition to operating expenses, we have purchased \$2800.00 in fixed assets: projector and new bidding boxes.

Current Bank Balance - \$155,800.

Our goal is to have a balance of 100,000.00. Next year the board will reduce entry fees for the 2021 Regional and Sectionals

Motion to approve the April 7th, 2019 Treasurer's report as submitted was made by Lauri Laufman - Seconded by Kathleen Malcolmson. **Motion Carried**

Jack thanked Gary and Patrick Tourais for taking care of financials for the board.



Old Business

Before turning the meeting over to Lauri, Jack expounded on all of Lauri's accomplishments this past year. He said she has more energy than anyone he has ever met. He shared that he has given her a nickname, "The Energized Bunny".

Lauri Thanked Jack for his kind remarks and wished him well in the coming year.

At this membership meeting, I have been charged with reviewing the year and events occurring during the term of my Presidency – April 2019 – June 2020.

We all know what happened in March and how the pandemic affected club closures and ultimately the cancellation of our remaining 4 Sectionals this year. Special thanks to Paul Cuneo for his help in negotiating these cancellations without any financial loss with the Marriott Management.

Like most of you, I look forward to the time when we can safely reunite in person at the bridge table together and in the meantime, thanks for continuing to support our Unit Clubs playing online on BBO.

Unit 174 Report

Lauri Laufman

- Membership dropped 3% from 2625 in April 2019 to 2547 in 2020.
- Overall tournament table count was up slightly thanks to an increase in STaC participation and the number of I/N sectionals held at clubs in 2019.
- All three of our full-service clubs made the ACBL Top 100 in table count in 2019: Westside Bridge Academy – 9th, Clear Lake Bridge Club – 55th and BCOH – 78th. That is out of 2,724 Clubs.
- Our Lone Star Regional in February 2020 surpassed expectations with 3052 tables, up from 2917.5 in 2019.
- 32 attended the Director's Refresher Course taught by Melody Euler with glowing reviews!
- As part of our effort to increase membership, we held two special "relaxed" 0-5 games. Thank you, Dave Glandorf and Barbara Phillips for each hosting a supervised play session. In addition, thanks to the efforts of our I/N Coordinator, Cindy Cox, we had both Newcomer Hosts and I/N Ambassadors available to assist first timers throughout the tournament.
- By way of member retention and appreciation, we held a 299er reception on Tuesday evening and then one for our volunteers on Wednesday between sessions.



- On Saturday night, with partial underwriting by ACBL's Education Fund and District 16, we provided a "free" showing of the movie "Aces & Knaves" along with refreshments. By the way – a very BIG "Thank You" goes to Betty Starzec for helping both with event, the 4th Annual Teacher Appreciation Day and for securing our wonderful daily speakers.
- Speaking of those that help make our Regional such a success, "hats off" to my Co-Chair, Jack LaVigne, and our three chair - Partnership – Ken Hudson - I/N Cindy Cox and Hospitality - Sam Khayatt.

To the over 150 volunteers who staffed these areas during the Regional and our Sectionals, know that it is because of people like you, we can hold such successful events.

- Our 2019 charity of choice was Make-A-Wish Foundation. A check in the amount of \$1,346.00 was presented to this worthy organization during our Regional.
- It is with great pleasure that we formally announce our Unit 174 Goodwill recipients: Ken Hudson and Sam Khayatt.

This award is intended to recognize and honor District 16 players who exhibit a spirit of courtesy, kindness, and tact at the bridge table. Congratulation to both of you!

- Other 2020 District 16 honors presented previously this year include:

District Star Award for Unit 174 – Dianna Gittelman.

Teacher of the Year Finalists – Julie Halperin and Sam Khayatt.

District 16 ACBL Goodwill Committee Appointees – Nancy Guthrie, Geoff Booth and Wilma Booth.

- The Unit Board's Club Connection program was quite active again until club closures in 2020. Each board visits several clubs per year as another way to "connect" with our membership and clubs. For all your hard work coordinating these events, thank you Nancy Guthrie.
- Our 6th ABA/ACBL joint game was held in April 2019 at Westside Bridge Academy. Thanks goes to Sheryl Thomas and Bert Onstott for coordinating the event.

I would like to thank our 2019-2020 Board for working so hard for you!! It takes a team and what a team we continue to have on our Unit Boards. Each contributed wonderfully and I would be remiss not to recognize each, starting first with those continuing forward this year – Jack LaVigne, Kathleen Malcolmson, Sheryl Thomas and Clif Rice.



To our recent outgoing Board Members to whom a Board Service Appreciation Award was recently presented: Nancy Guthrie and David Henke (2017-2020), and Daniel Jackson who served just short of two full terms from 2014-2019.

To finish out the last few months of Daniel's term, we have Nancy Strohmer to thank for gracefully agreeing to fill in. Cindy Cox, we are so appreciative of all you contributed during your year on the board and were sorry to see you depart. Joyce Gore, thank you for agreeing to again serve on the board by filling Cindy's remaining two-year term.

To our three newer Board Members, congratulations! Greg May, Kathy McDougall and Karen Nussbaum. You each have hit the ground running with a torch in hand. For those of you who do not know, Karen was elected Vice-President, Kathy appointed I/N coordinator and Greg May has taken over all things technology related, including managing today's meeting.

To our Webmasters – Carol Winograd and Allison Oschner – If they gave awards at ACBL for the top Unit Websites, you would be in the winner's circle!

Jeff Kroll and Sam Khayatt – your monthly Unit Newsletters are amazing!

Although I have enjoyed being your Events & Classes Newsletter Editor for the last 3 years, I am appreciative to now have Ann Sinclair as the Co-Editor (soon to be Editor).

To Carol Wilson – thank you for all those wonderful articles filled with your delicious sense of humor as our Unit Scorecard Editor these last several years. To Barbara LaVigne, who has now taken over this position we look forward to your first edition.

There are so many key volunteers who deserve shout-outs and my apologies in advance for leaving anyone out. Al Fortier, Brigitte and Danny Sandifer, Nancy Strohmer, Betty Starzec, Paul Nimmons, Bob Dowlen, Dan Leightman (deceased), Bert Onstott, Paul Cuneo, Gary Hercules and Patrick Tourais, Buddy Hanby –(now Chuck Gillis) as Attorney, Catherine Miller, (now Jeanne Phelps) handling Membership Communications and Sally Wheeler as District 16 Assistant Recorder for Unit 174

I have enjoyed serving as your President this past term and getting to interact with so many of you during that time. It continues to be a privilege serving as one of your Board Members. Jack – Congratulations on taking over as President in June. You are doing a fabulous job! The Unit is so fortunate to have you at our helm, as am I. With that, please take this mike and pass it to the next presenter, Sheryl Thomas.



New Business

Recognition & Outstanding Achievements

Sheryl Thomas

Diamond Life Masters – have earned 5,000 masterpoints:

Jeff Kroll
Bobby Maynard
Ralda St. Pierre
Vern Schmidt

Emerald Life Masters – achievement of 7,500 masterpoints:

Shirley McKee

Grand Life Masters – have won both over 10,000 Masterpoints and National Championship:

Ira Chorush
Sally Wheeler

Presentation of Awards – Recently delivered to recipients

Kathleen Malcolmson

Mini-McKenney

0 – 5	Hasin Jinna	ranked 23rd Nationally
5 – 20	Martin Hrachovy	
20 – 50	Paddy Fiorin	ranked 13th Nationally
50 – 100	Cindy Cox	
100 – 200	Greg May	ranked 6th Nationally
200 – 300	James Sells	ranked 2nd Nationally
300 – 500	Jeannie Stone	
500 – 1000	Wes Pierce	
1000 – 1000	Steve Bell	ranked 16th Nationally
1500 – 2500	Thomas Rush	ranked 2nd Nationally
2500 – 3500	Susan Kaplan	
3500 – 5000	Timo Erkoc	ranked 20 th Nationally
5000 – 7500	David Henke	
7500 – 10,000	Jack LaVigne	ranked 11 th Nationally
Over 10,000	Eddie Wold	ranked 10 th Nationally



Ace of Clubs

Clif Rice

0-5	Hasin Jinna	ranked 17 th Nationally
5-20	Martin Hrachovy	
20-50	Paddy Fiorino	ranked 6 th Nationally
50-100	Brian Schaffer	
100-200	Corbin Shouse	ranked 8 th Nationally
200-300	James Sells	ranked 1 st Nationally
300-500	David Richard	
500-1,000	Robert Crawford	
1,000-1,500	Steven Bell	ranked 9 th Nationally
1,500-2,500	Jim Ochsner	ranked 17 th Nationally
2,500-3,500	Ariel Leibovitz	ranked 25 th Nationally
3,500-5,000	Timucin Erkoc	ranked 8 th Nationally
5,000-7,500	David Henke	
7,500-10,000	Mary Pat Gentry	ranked 25 th Nationally
	Congratulations for winning this for 14 years in a row	
Over 10,000	Joe Quinn	ranked 14 th Nationally

Questions & Answers

Karen Nimmons thanked the Board for all the work they have done.

Lucy Hoffman also thanked the Board for the work they do and for adjustments this year.

Thomas Rush stated that during the vote for acceptance of the Minutes and Financial Report, there was no time for discussion. He also said he thought the total of votes on these two items should be made known.

Jack then informed the membership that there was 85% of attendees who voted - with 100% approved on the Minutes and the Financial had 99% approved and 1 no vote.

John Caudill asked Jack if he had any idea when we will be able to play bridge in persons.

Jack said we are planning the 2021 Regional on the provision that all will be safe. He then displayed a chart of how the Corona Virus is increasing daily and said it would be when it was safe. He then cautioned everyone to stay home, wear masks, keep social distance, wash hands and stay safe.

Nancy Strohmer asked what the count on attendance of the meeting and how many do we need for a quorum. Jack informed her there was 137 present and the number for a quorum is 178.

Carolyn Wedel thanked Greg May for all his work on setting up Webinar and for running it so smoothly. She then thanked Lauri Laufman for her journalism this past year and told Jack that she is looking forward to his efforts this coming year. She then gave thanks to all the board members.



Adjournment

Motion that the 2019 Annual Membership meeting be adjourned was made by Sheryl Thomas - seconded by Clif Rice. **Motion carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Gore,
Unit 174 Secretary

