



ACBL Unit 174 Annual Meeting Minutes

April 18th, 2021

Zoom

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 Zoom participation instructions to the attending membership.

Jack said because there was not a quorum there would be no business done.

Minutes

Joyce Gore

Copy of the 2020 Annual Minutes were made available on the Unit 174 Website which will be approved at another time.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

A copy of the Unit's 2020 Financial Report was made available on the Unit 174 Website by Gary Hercules, Treasurer.

At the end of 2020, the Profit and Loss Statement reflects:

Income - \$193,463., Expenses - \$152,486. Net - \$40,977.

Fixed Assets - Zero Assets Purchased

Current Bank Balance - \$200,726.

Gary explained the Good Neighbor Program we have with Randalls, Safeway and Albertsons. If a member is signed up for this program a return of 1% of purchases is given to charity of choice (which may be Unit 174).

Jack thanked Gary, Treasurer and Patrick Tourais, Financial Verifier for taking care of all the Board's financials.

He then thanked Gary for all he does as Treasurer.



By Law Proposed Changes

Jack LaVigne

Jack reviewed the two (2) proposals for changes to the By Laws which will be voted on a future date.

1. Article VI Section 4, not really changing them, only changing the wording from:

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.

to

A member may vote for one, two or three candidates, but may only vote once for the same candidate.

- 2 Article IX Section 2, Rules and Ethics Committee: this needs to be removed as this has been moved from the Unit to the District by ACBL.

Old Business

Unit 174 Report

Jack LaVigne

Jack gave a brief review of tournament participation of the table count for the years 2017 to 2020

The I/N Tournaments were held in January at Westside Bridge Academy and Bridge Club of Houston.

Tournament Outlook

Paul Cuneo

Paul gave an updated report that was issued April 15, by ACBL.

Paul said ACBL is busy planning the first initial post pandemic NABC in Austin.

He said ACBL is working on a software program for pre-registration for all tournament events and for the tournament itself.

Masterpoint Limited Sectionals and STaC will begin in August if local conditions permit.

Open Sectionals and Regionals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Paul then gave the ACBL's requirement (e.g. everyone must be vaccinated, masks are required, etc.).

Exceptions on vaccine and mask requirements will be considered on individual basis and will be due to qualifying medical conditions or firmly held religious beliefs. An ACBL representative or the Tournament Sponsor will make this determination.



Club Report

Jack LaVigne

Jack displayed a chart of the table count for the four (4) online clubs and explained the increase of table count from March to December, 2020.

Jack informed the Board there are 2505 Clubs Nationally.

Each of the four (4) Unit 174 Houston Clubs made the ACBL Top 100 table count in 2020.

Westside Bridge Academy – 19th, Clear Lake Bridge and Galveston Clubs combined – 36th, BCOH – 26th, and Apple - 34th.

By way of Membership Statistics from April 2015 to April 2021 Jack said there was a slight increase from 2015 to 2019 about (1%), in 2020 a 3% decrease and in 2021 a 7% decrease

Jack said new member recruitment and member retention are the number one priority of the Unit Board.

Future Life Masters

Greg May

Greg said Unit 174, and in fact, all of bridge has been suffering from a reduced retention rate and slow growth of new members. The Board established an I/N Committee to find ways to address these problems.

Greg introduced the FLM Committee: himself, Kathy McDougall, Nancy Guthrie, Cindy Cox and Lauri Laufman, all of whom were involved in designing and implementing this program.

Each of these volunteers have additional special duties that they handle.

Kathy was instrumental in establishing beginner teachers – Lauri is Unit 174 Virtual Club Manager and runs and directs the 0-20 masterpoint Apollo game- Nancy is the Flight Commander who works with the Pilots and interfacing- and Cindy is the Co-founder and visionary idea person.

Greg introduced the three (3) flights and their Pilots:

Apollo (0-20mp)	Pilot - Mary Ellen Vail
Gemini (21-50mp)	Pilot- Janice Hardcastle
Discovery (51-100mp)	Pilot – Betty Westbrook.

Greg thanked the many copilots that work with the Pilots and contribute to this program.

Bridge-In-A Day (BIAD)

Kathleen McDougall

Kathy explained that the I/N initiative was to recruit new members and maintain existing members.

Kathy said District 16 initiated two free one-day online workshops (Nov 2020 and Feb 2021) that were held to attract raw beginners and returning rusty players. She said Unit 174 was heavily involved in these workshops.

A list of online Teachers was provided for these new players so they would know where to go and could continue learning about the game



Add A New Player Challenge – 2021

Jack LaVigne

Jack asked “*what could we do to recruit new members?*”

Jack suggested, we all take the “*Add a New Player Challenge*” by reaching out to family/friends and peers and ask them to try bridge. Successful members can instruct them to contact Mary Ellen Vail at flm174.com or go to ACBL Website and there is a Learn tab with fabulous items for new players.

2021 District 16 Awards

Jack LaVigne

Star Award

Jack congratulated Sam Khayatt the District 16 Star Award recipient. Jack explained this award is given to a volunteer who works at the Unit level to promote bridge.

He then expounded on the excellent work Sam has done for the Unit.

Unit 174 Goodwill Award

Jack congratulated Charles Dalton and John Erickson in sharing this award. Jack explained that this award is given to players who exhibit a spirit of courtesy, kindness, and tact at the bridge table.

Board of Directors

Lauri Laufman

Lauri introduced the 2020-2021 Board of Directors -Jack LaVigne, Karen Nussbaum, Joyce Gore, Lauri Laufman, Greg May, Nancy Guthrie, Kathleen McDougall, Clif Rice and Sheryl Thomas.

Lauri then thanked Kathleen Malcolmson for her two and a half years of service and then thanked Nancy Guthrie for agreeing to accept an appointment back onto the Board for an appointment of six months.

Lauri thanked the outgoing Board Members, Jack LaVigne and Sheryl Thomas to whom she presented a Board Service Appreciation Award on completion of their 2018-2021 term.

Election Results

Lauri Laufman

Lauri announced the Election winners:

Dave Becker, Carol Lombardino and Thomas Rush and congratulated them.



Jack recognized our key volunteers:

Al Fortier, Photographer **Norm Gautier**, Facilitator, **Paul Nimmons** –Parliamentarian, **Brigitte and Danny Sandifer**, Election Officials and **Nancy Strohmer**-Charity Coordinator.

Charity Coordinator**Nancy Strohmer**

Nancy stated that Unit 174 Charity for 2020 was Dress for Success. She then detailed what Dress for Success does. She informed the Board the amount of \$3,142 contributed to a Charity was well over double of any other year that a donation was made to a Charity.

Jack continued with:

Chuck Gillis	Unit Attorney
Jeanne Phelps	Member Communications Committee Chair
Sally Wheeler	Unit 174 District 16 Assistant Recorder
Carol Winograd	Unit Webmasters
Allison Ochsner	
Sam Khayatt	Unit Newsletter
Jeff Kroll	
Barbara LaVigne	Unit 174 Scorecard Editor
Ann Sinclair	Events and Classes Newsletter
Lauri Laufman	

Jack then thanked the **members** of Unit 174 for their involvement in District 16:

Lauri Laufman	Board of Directors
Jack Lavigne	Recorder
John Magyari	Webmaster
Thomas Rush	Lecture Series Coordinator
Betty Starzec	First Vice President and Awards
Nancy Strohmer	President, Charity Coordinator, 99er Nite Club Liaison
Jim Woodward	Financial Verifier

Jack then thanked members of Unit 174 for their involvement in ACBL at the National level.:

Paul Cuneo - ACBL Board of Directors, Strategic Committee Chair Governance Committee, ACBL Education Foundation, Board of Trustees Treasurer and Executive Committee



Betty Starzec - ACBL Education Foundation Trustee, ACBL Board of Governors Representative, ACBL Board of Governors Clubs and Teacher Committee, ABTA Nominating Chair/Past President/Executive Committee

Nancy Strohmer- ACBL Charity Foundation, Trustee and President,-ACBL Board of Governors Second Alternative, ACBL Tournament Conduct Committee

Eddie Wold- Ethical Oversight and Hall of Fame Committee Member.

New Business

Recognition & Outstanding Achievements

Sheryl Thomas

Diamond Life Masters - achievement of 5,000 Masterpoints

Clif Capen
Susan Stubinski

Emerald Life Masters – achievement of 7,500 Masterpoints:

Jim Hawkins
Jeff McKee
Betty Starzac

Presentation of Awards – Recently delivered to recipients

Greg May

Mini-McKenney Awards

0 – 5	Lynn Hershey	ranked 13th Nationally
5 – 20	Laura Hayes	
20 – 50	Elizabeth Wise	
50 – 100	Bill and Betty Nash	ranked 2 nd Nationally
100-200	Paddy Fiorino	
200 – 300	Michael Wells	
300 – 500	B Haznedar	
500 – 1000	James Sells	
1000 – 1000	Tom Hogle	ranked 11th Nationally
1500 – 2500	Mary McDonald	
2500 – 3500	Dolores Aquino	ranked 1 st Nationally
3500 – 5000	Jimmy Breihan	ranked 7th Nationally
5000 – 7500	Jeff McKee	ranked 13 th Nationally
7500 – 10,000	Jack LaVigne	ranked 5th Nationally
Over 10,000	Eddie Wold	ranked 8 th Nationally



Ace of Clubs Awards

Sheryl Thomas

0-5	Lynn Hershey	ranked 22 nd Nationally
5-20	Laura Hayes	
20-50	Elizabeth Wise	
50-100	Bill & Debbie Nash	ranked 2 nd Nationally
100-200	Tom Russell	
200-300	Michael Wells	
300-500	Greg May	ranked 10 th Nationally
500-1,000	Harshad Patel	
1,000-1,500	Tom Hogel	ranked 7 th Nationally
1,500-2,500	Mary McDonald	ranked 24 th Nationally
2,500-3,500	Dolores Aquino	ranked 1 st Nationally
3,500-5,000	Harry Elliott	ranked 18 th Nationally
5,000-7,500	Jeff McKee	
7,500-10,000	David Henke	ranked 21 st Nationally
Over 10,000	Joe Quinn	ranked 11 th Nationally

Adjournment

A Motion that the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting be adjourned was made by Joyce Gore-
Seconded by Nancy Guthrie. **Motion carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Gore

Unit 174 – Secretary.

