



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

April 6th, 2009

Houston Bridge Studio

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Jolie Hess-President, Bert Onstott-Secretary, Paul Cuneo, Joyce Ryan, John Erickson, Lauri Laufman, and Karen Nimmons. Also present as guests were Eric Snow, Toni Snow, and Betty Starzec.

Guests

2009 NABC

Eric Snow, Toni Snow, Betty Starzec

Eric Snow, Toni Snow and Betty Starzec, NABC Co-Chairs, reported on the NABC.

The actual table count was 9,728 ½; somewhat less than the 10,373 Memphis was expecting. Here's a summary of table counts in 2009 vs. 2002.

	2009	2002
Expected table count	10,373	9,944
Total table count	9,728 ½	10,656 ½
Actual/Estimate	93.8%	107%
I/N players	799	1,046
I/N table count	844 ½	1,025 ½
Expected I/N table count	711	883
I/N % over estimate	18.7%	16%
New memberships	48	38

There were actually 52 new ACBL memberships signed up during the tournament, but some of those were from other units.

The hotel bill has yet to be received, but they are projecting that the tournament will realize at least a \$20,000 profit. They should be able to close the books on the tournament by next month.

There were a lot of registration bags and section top awards (coaster sets) left over.

The restaurant shuttle was very well received, as was the venue.

Eric reported that there were lots of positive comments about how well the tournament was run; he expects that some of that good press will attract players to our regional. He also expects that Memphis will be looking at Houston to host another NABC in the not to distant future.



Minutes of March board meeting

Bert

The minutes of the March meeting were approved by on-line poll.

Treasurer's Report

Jim

April Financials

Jim reported on the April financials.

Some highlights

Caveat: The April financial numbers do not include the revenue and costs associated with the NABC!

- Current total assets are \$162,158.89.
 - Total in checking & savings accounts is \$145,059.37. Of that total, \$81,488.62 is reserved for the NABC; essentially all of that will be expended by the end of the NABC. After the NABC, the amounts in checking and savings will likely fall below \$100,000.
- The 2009 Lone Star Regional made a profit of \$6,544.91.
- Net income YTD is \$32,759.34.

Motion: That the treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

Committee Reports

Awards/Flyers

Karen

Flyers

Flyers for the June sectional have been picked up and will be distributed to the clubs.

Awards

Karen ordered six Life Master Plaques. There are 62 pre-paid plaques remaining.

Karen received the Mini-McKenney medallions and the Ace of Clubs certificates, which will be given out during the Annual Membership meeting during the Election Sectional. Jolie has the pins for the Unit Goodwill awards.

Bridge in Schools

Natalie Wernet

Natalie is still teaching at KIPP. She was prominently featured in the Channel 13 story on the NABC and Bridge in Houston that aired on March 20th.

Communications Committee

Jolie (for Betty Freedman)

Margo Leonard has taken over the job of sending letters to all new and transferred in members. She will begin mailing out letters, including a Unit brochure, soon.

Membership

Bert

Membership is up 46 to 2,439. We had 48 new members; most of which were signed up during the NABC. This is the highest total since January of 1994 and 260 (12%) higher than the low



point reached January 2001. Since last May, Unit membership has increased by 91! We're only 113 below the all time (at least since January 1990, which is as far back as my records go) high of 2552.

We rank 5th out of 17 in the District in membership trend percentage; Austin is 1st. We rank 60th out of 303 in the ACBL; Austin is 15th.

Second year retention also set a new three year average high of 64.95%. That actually understates recent performance; 74% of those who joined between 16 and 27 months ago renewed their membership.

We've signed up 679 new members, or 28% of our membership, in the last three years. Without those new members, we'd obviously be setting records for the fewest number of members, instead of growing rapidly.

Fund Raising

Bob

Bob had nothing to report.

Goodwill

at

Pat sent a condolence card to Sharon McCollum, whose husband passed away, and to the family of Georgia Sampson.

She sent get well cards to Teddine Loftis, Dottie Voss, Arlene Weingarten, and Stanley Leventhal

I/N, Education & Book Sales

Joyce

Book Sales

Joyce sold 109 books to several unit teachers.

Education

There is nothing to report.

NAP/GNT

John

NAP

There is nothing to report

GNT

One of the teams that qualified at the Unit level asked about the policy regarding replacements, as they had one team member drop out. John talked the District GNT coordinator, Mark Bumgardner, to clarify the rules.

New Player Services

Paul

Paul is ready is for the May tournament.

Pro-Am

Paul

The Pro-Am isn't until this fall, so there is nothing to report.

STAC

Bob

The next Unit STaC isn't until this fall, so there is nothing to report.



Supplies

Lauri

There are three events in the next month: the ABA nationals, Social Bridge, and the May sectional for which supplies will be needed.

Lauri reports that supplies are in order for all three.

Tournament Coordination

Pat

Pat sent Jolie a report on her Tournament coordinator activities.

- She submitted schedules for the upcoming 0-99r and 0-299r Sectionals at the Bridge Club of Houston and the Bridge Studio. All the proposed schedules were approved April 2, 2009.
- She requested and received Memphis's approval of a change of dates to August 21-23 and a change of venue to the Marriott Hotel for the Houston 2009 August Sectional. Sue Do will be the Director in Charge.
- She requested and received approval of the change of dates the ACBL of the revised dates for the Regionals from 2010 to. We had sanctions for those years but some of the dates were different than the dates that were negotiated with the hotel.
- She received word that the Directors for June Sectional will be Tom Whitesides, Richard Beye, Kevin Perkins, Wolf Schroeter, and Lucky Snyder.
- The Directors for May Sectional will be Sue Do, Tom Marsh, Kevin Perkins, Wolf Schroeter, and Tom Whitesides.

Old Business

Election Sectional

Lauri, Bob

Everything is going according to plan.

- Free play coupons have been printed.
- The Stafford Choir Booster club has agreed to do the snack bar as they did last August.
- We will arrange to rent extra space for Saturday to accommodate the expected number of tables.
- Lauri will print 50 copies of the restaurant guide.

Annual Unit Meeting

The annual unit meeting will be held between sessions on Sunday during the May sectional. We will repeat the approach used last year.

- Jim will bring 25 copies of the 2008 financials. Jim will also attempt to summarize the P&L for the NABC and have that available.
- Jolie will bring 25 copies of the 2008 annual meeting minutes.
- Lauri will ask Sandy Stevens if we can borrow her projector.
- Jolie will talk to the Stafford Center about using a screen.



- Bert will update the Power Point presentation used last year to reflect this year's information.

June Sectional

Karen, John

Karen is following the plan.

She sent the Scorecard ad to Ira by the deadline.

John asked the ACBL to link to our on-line flyer; they said it should be done within 24 hours.

August Sectional

Paul

We do not have a signed contract with the Marriott yet, but we do have a deal. The hotel has been slow in providing a contract.

Paul presented a proposed budget for approval.

- The budget projects a small profit of about \$1,900.
- The Sunday entry fee will be the same as for Friday and Saturday (\$10).
- The hotel will provide coffee; it will be free to the players.
- There will not be a meal provided on Sunday. Instead time will be allowed for the players to go out for a meal. The second session will start at 3:00 pm.
- Rooms for the directors will be more expensive, since they are \$89/night instead of \$59.
- We will only set aside \$1 for each entry on Saturday instead of for every entry as was done prior to the NABC.

Motion: That the budget be approved as proposed.

The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.



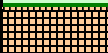

Paul also presented the schedule for approval; the proposed schedule is shown below. It's pretty much the same as all our sectionals with the exception of Sunday.

August 2008 Sectional Schedule

		Friday August 8 th		Saturday August 9 th			Sunday August 10 th	
		1:30 PM	7:00 PM	9:00 AM	1:30 PM	7:00 PM	10:30 AM	3:00 PM
PAIRS	Stratified Open Pairs							
	TEAMS							
	Handicapped KO							
	Compact KO							
	Stratified Swiss							
	Strati-flighted Swiss							



INT/NOV	0-5 pairs							
	0-49 pairs							
	0-299 pairs							

LEGEND	One session	
	Two sessions	
	Two out of three sessions	
	Four sessions	

Stratification & Flighting

Stratified Events:	A: 1500+	B: 750-1500	C: 0-750	
Strati-Flighted Events:	A: 3000+	AX: 0-3000	D: 0-300	(A & AX play together)
	B: 75-1500	C: 300-750		(BCD play together)
Intermediate/Novice Strats				
299ers:	A: 200-300	B: 100-200	C: 0-100	
49ers:	A: 20-50	B: 5-20	C: 0-5	
299er Swiss:	A: 200-300	B: 100-200	C: 0-100	

Motion: That the schedule be approved as proposed.

The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The committee chairs will be:

- Partnership - Ralda St. Pierre
- Hospitality - Darlene Moody
- I/N - Sue Adamson

Pat will submit the schedule to Memphis for approval.

Bert will make up a flyer.

On-Line Partnership Desk

Bert

A total of 205 users have registered; 15 since March 1st. 329 partnership requests have been posted; 29 since March 1st.

Programs for Clubs

Joyce

Joyce had nothing new to report.

Joyce mentioned that she heard during the NABC that games can be stratified using average masterpoints of the pair. She thinks this might be attractive for some of the club games.

Social Bridge Event

Bert

The committee met Tuesday, March 31st at 3:00 and will meet again on Friday, April 10th. Here's what's been done:



- An on-line web page, with registration, was posted.
- 3,000 flyers were printed. Sue Adamson is in charge of promotion; she's been working hard to get the word out. She's keeping detailed notes of each Social Bridge venue she hears about, when/who she contacted, what their receptivity was, etc. It looks like she knows about close to one hundred venues. She's handed out lots of flyers.
- A letter with two flyers enclosed was sent to all the participants in last October's event. The letter asked for help identifying Social Bridge venues.
- Pat will help Sue her put together a phone committee to call all of last October's participants.
- Anne Knott has contacted Demeris for the meal; they've agreed to cater and told her she could give a final meal count two days before.
- Gary King has his lesson plans ready. He'll decide how many to have printed closer to the event.

The bad news is that we currently have only 17 registrants as of Sunday, April 5th. We need something like 30-40 to put the event on; the committee will decide on April 10th whether to cancel. Last October we had 85, most had registered by three weeks prior to the event.

2009 Lone Star Regional

Jolie

Joyce sends a packet containing a flyer for the May tournament, a listing of the 299r, novice/mentor and supervised play games, an ACBL membership form, and a list of contact people to all the non-members who played in the regional. This year she sent out 16 of these packets.

The hotel bill has been paid. As mentioned in Jim's report, the Regional made about \$6,500.

ABA Tournament

Paul

The ABA nationals are this upcoming week at the Westin Galleria. Lauri will ship supplies to the hotel this Friday and have them picked them up a week later on Monday. Paul will go to the hotel this Saturday and meet with their tournament chair to go over their receipt of materials.

Stafford Center Down Payment

John

John has made the down payment for the June tournament. We've also made the final payment for the May tournament. There is an issue about waiver of overtime payment for May; John will follow up. We had overtime waived last August.

2010 Regional

Pat

Pat received approval of the schedule the board approved in March from the ACBL. Jolie Hess has agreed to be Partnership Chair and Jane Armstrong has agreed to be the Hospitality Chair.

New Business

Thank you letter from Blue Bird Circle

We were one of three units that had their charities selected by the District in 2008. One of those charities was Blue Bird Circle; they wrote the Unit a nice letter thanking us for the donation. .

Thank you letter from Joan Gerard



Joan Gerard sent a thank you letter thanking us for the gift she received during the NABC.

Review & Approval of Procedures Manual Changes

We reviewed revision 14 of the Unit Procedures manual, which incorporated changes to the 0-20 game subsidy program, added Speaker procedures for the Regional, and added the newly adopted Caddy procedures.

Motion: That the revisions to the Procedures Manual be approved.

The motion was seconded and carried without opposition.

Arlene's Newsletter

Arlene notified Jolie that she intends to send out only one more e-mail newsletter; hence Jolie is looking for a replacement. We decided to advertise for one on the Unit web site.

Registration bags, section top awards, and decorations left from the NABC.

There were a lot of registration bags, section top awards, and decorations left over from the NABC. The registration bags and section top awards have been stored in the warehouse; the decorations are in Betty Starzec's garage.

The board decided to bring bags, section top awards, and decorations to future sectionals and offer them up to our players, first come, first serve.

Executive Session

The board was in executive session for 10 minutes.

Future Meeting dates

The next meeting will be held May 4th.

Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted



Bert Onstott

Secretary

