



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

April 17, 2017

Westside Bridge Academy

Call to order

Bill

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. All Directors were present - Bill Riley, Ken Hudson, Lauri Laufman, Nancy Strohmer, Dianna Gittelman, Daniel Jackson, John Caudill, Nancy Guthrie and David Henke. Also in attendance were Gary Hercules, Jimmy Breihan, Brigitte Sandifer, Carol Wilson and Carolyn Lanier.

Board of Directors 2017/2018 Officers

All

Board officers were each nominated, seconded and approved as follows:

President: Bill Riley (nominated by Nancy Strohmer, seconded by John Caudill).
Vice President: Ken Hudson (nominated by John Caudill, seconded by Nancy Strohmer).
Secretary: Lauri Laufman (nominated by Nancy Strohmer, seconded by Ken Hudson)

New Business (partial)

Guests

1) GNT Subsidy - Jimmy Breihan brought to the board's attention that in the past we have subsidized unit members who qualify to go to the GNT Finals and requested we continue to do so.

Motion – Lauri Laufman made the motion to continue the subsidy in the amount of up to \$1000 (maximum of \$250 per Unit 174 member on the team) based on the number of members from unit 174 on the team.

The motion was seconded by Nancy Strohmer and approved by all except Daniel Jackson, who had recused himself from the discussion and vote.



2. Support Team Bridge Inc - Carolyn Lanier/Carol Wilson started a non-profit to help make attending special team events more affordable for Unit members via raising the funds to help underwrite their efforts and would like to get the word out via our Unit newsletter.

Motion – Nancy S made a motion to allow Support Team Bridge Inc to submit an announcement regarding their upcoming project in our Unit newsletter

The motion was seconded by Dianna and approved by all. **Daniel Jackson recused himself from the discussion and vote.**

3. ABA/ACBL Game – Brigitte Sandifer offered to run the next ABA/ACBL event at Tracy Gee in late Feb or March, 2018. She will charge \$100 which will include scheduling the date with Tracy Gee's, directing and setting the game up with pre-dealt hands and hand records. The board accepted her generous offer and thanked her.

4. April Election Write-In Votes – Brigitte Sandifer, an Election Judge at our most recent Election Sectional, wanted to bring to the board's attention that there were 97 write-in votes including to her disappointment, some non-members of Unit 174. She suggested the board consider limiting write-in votes to only Unit 174 members. The recommendation was taken under advisement.

5. Sanctions of Unit Games – Brigitte Sandifer, as both a past board member and a club director, requested that the unit sanctioned games be posted at the beginning of the year. These consist of 24 Unit Championship games, STAC games etc that are sanctioned to be held at the clubs during the year. The board agreed to be more proactive.

6. Sectional Fees – Brigitte Sandifer asked why our fees at sectionals and regionals are so low. She cited that 299er events are \$11 per session and regular club games \$10 depending on location. The board agreed and advised her that we are slowly adjusting fees.

7. Webmaster – Brigitte Sandifer finished her business with the board sharing how happy she is to have Carol Winograd as our unit webmaster and that she is doing a fabulous job. [The board thanked Brigitte for her observations, suggestions and kind words.]

Approval of minutes

Ken

The March Board meeting minutes were submitted.



Motion – Lauri Laufman made the motion to approve the March meeting minutes with a correction of the word conscience to conscious that had been previously noted.

The motion was seconded by Daniel Jackson and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

Gary

Gary completed and submitted the March financial statements to the Board. All have been reviewed and approved by the Verifier.

His comment was that once a few final figures are presented, he will be able to present a final profit/loss statement for the Election Sectional.

Motion – Daniel Jackson made the motion to approve the December financial statements.

The motion was seconded by Lauri Laufman and approved unanimously.

Gary also provided each board member with a packet of “tools” that can be used to help generate savings and/or make submitting expenses and reports easier along with a quick review of how to use each. Bill reminded everyone that they should be signed by himself or Ken.

District Report

Paul Cuneo

The next district meeting is at the July regional. No report submitted.

Old Business

2018 LSR

Bill/Daniel

Schedule was presented but some changes were suggested, so approval was tabled until the next board meeting. Bill will submit the new proposed schedule.

We are still waiting to find out if we can move the LSR 1 week earlier – as previously mentioned in our last board meeting, the advantages of this is there would be no competing regionals and also the tournament would not finish on Super Bowl Sunday.

April, 2017 Sectional

Nancy/Ken

Nancy shared that having the district GNT during our sectional probably helped our table count on Palm Sunday and that director Kevin Perkins complimented the unit for noticing the trend leaning towards morning/afternoon only sessions at sectionals due to evening fall off by way of table count.



Sidebar by John – let’s remember to add one more caddy if we have the district GNT here again next year.

Compliments were given by several board members to the Marriott and staff. Several staff members went that extra mile for members. Also mentioned, we should look into the special rates and request something competitive to the AARP/AAA offerings as well as get "Marriott credit points" for Marriott stays of those who bypass the bridge rate and obtain better rates through AARP/AAA. Bill Riley agreed to address this at his upcoming meeting with the Marriott.

June, 2017 Sectional

John

John announced that David Henke will be his co-chair for this event and also presented a small batch of flyers for initial distribution. A digital one is on our website and linked on the ACBL website too.

August 2017 Sectional

Lauri

Lauri Laufman presented several points for discussion (1) tournament length (2) scheduled times (3) cost per session and (4) events. Nancy Guthrie was introduced as the co-chair.

It was agreed that if the Marriott will allow us to start on Thursday morning, we will again go with a 4-day format. Games will start at 10:00am and 3:00pm (no evening games) daily. And since we usually try something new out during our Awesome August Sectional, this time we will incorporate “2-Day Pair Championship Games” on Friday-Saturday.

After considerable discussion of fees and break even analysis:

Motion: A motion was made by Dianna Gittelman to approve fees of \$11 per session Thursday through Saturday and \$15 per session on Sunday. Lunch will be included to participating players on Sunday.

The motion was seconded by John Caudill and approved by all.

October 2017 Sectional

Dianna

Lots of fun things are in the works including a Las Vegas Night which Dianna has a sponsor. The schedule and budget were postponed until next meeting.

Committee Reports

Bill

Marketing Committee Report

Nancy S and Paul Cuneo

There was no Marketing Committee Report but Nancy reported that the committee hopes to hold the Longest Day Event at Memorial City Mall.



Website and Information Committee Report

Nancy S

There has not been a meeting since the last board meeting. Webmaster, Carol Winograd's report follows:

Website and Information Committee Update
April 16, 2017

I must admit I have not spent time on many of the action items created at the committee meeting on March 4th as I have been spending all the time I can spare on the website itself. Being Webmaster is quite time consuming. Some of the time spent has been bringing the site up to date as it was in disarray (broken links, orphaned files, content not updated) when I assumed the responsibility. I would say I am about 95% there at this point. Other time is spent on frequent updates to the site. I have also been creating instruction sheets for all tasks performed so that the next Webmaster will have the necessary information to maintain the site at his/her fingertips and won't experience the steep learning curve that I did (and often still do!).

I have created what I like to call our Unit's billboard on the calendar page. This is the space that was previously used to post an image of a random photo of flowers or some vacation spot. I hope you have noticed that this space now contains an important message for our members. During March it was a request for an editor for a blog that my committee would like to start. During April I am using the space to promote the upcoming MiniBridg event at WBA.

After posting the ad for the editor of the blog, I was referred to a member that was interested in the position. I have not heard back from the member, so I will be re-contacting the interested party. If the board has recommendations for an editor of the blog, I would welcome all suggestions.

I am hoping that in a few more months I will have all systems in place regarding day to day operations of the website. This will free up time to concentrate on enhancements to the site.

The Events and Classes newsletter and Unit Newsletter, done by Nancy Strohmer and Carol Wilson respectively, are in great shape. These publications and the President's message are posted promptly on our site. I have had no interaction with the Scorecard.

Bert Onstott has been and continues to be invaluable to me. He is always generous with his time and knowledge. I would suggest the Board give him the title of Webmaster Emeritus. I would like to include him on http://acblunit174.org/board_of_directors.htm.

Per suggestion of Carol, the board unanimously agreed.

Motion: Thus made by Lauri Laufman that the board give Bert Onstott the title of Webmaster Emeritus and include him on our website accordingly.

The motion was seconded by Nancy Strohmer and approved by all.

2017 Club Connection

Bill

No report made



New Business (the balance)

Bidding Box Refurbishing

Dianna

Dianna suggested we consider trying to clean the unit bidding boxes via the dishwasher on china setting. We are considering making this an action item after the June sectional. The board may look for volunteers to help out based on how initial testing of this process goes.

Unit Partnership Desk

Nancy S

The ACBL online partnership desk is not very user friendly; discussion centered around the possibility that the partnership desk created by Bert previously may be resurrected with the assistance of him and our webmaster for the unit to utilize for regional and sectional events in the future. This is now an action item.

There was consideration of the need of a Unit Electronic Partnership Chair who would be responsible for managing the electronic Partnership Desk on a daily basis. Bill Riley offered to take this position permanently in 2018.

Grant Reimbursement Request

Nancy S

There was a request made to get a reimbursement for the 2015 Learn Bridge in a Day so far, no luck.

Head Caddy Program

Nancy S

Nancy presented a head caddy comparison to show what head caddies are paid in other areas. After some discussion, the board concurred that an increase was due.

Motion: A motion was made jointly by Nancy S and John such that \$25/session was added to the Head Caddy's pay, the position of Assistant Head Caddy be created and a \$10/session added to that position's pay.

The motion was seconded by Dianna and approved by all.

The below illustrates what will now be in effect.



CADDY PROGRAM
Effective April 17, 2017

CADDY CHAIR: JOHN CAUDILL
HEAD CADDY: RANDY SIMPSON

SECTIONALS

HEAD CADDY PER SESSION	HEAD CADDY ROOM	ASSISTANT CADDY	CADDY/SESSION	HEAD CADDY-SUNDAY	ASSISTANT HEAD CADDY-SUNDAY	CADDY-SUNDAY
\$75	n/a	\$45	\$35	\$165/day	\$105/day	\$85/day

REGIONAL

HEAD CADDY PER SESSION	HEAD CADDY ROOM	ASSISTANT CADDY	CADDY/SESSION	HEAD CADDY-SUNDAY	ASSISTANT HEAD CADDY-SUNDAY	CADDY-SUNDAY
\$75	Mon-Sat or \$75/day in lieu of a room @ the Marriott*	\$45	\$35	\$165/day	\$105/day	\$85/day

*BOD approved this on Jan 4, 2016

Caddy 1099 Reporting

Tabled for now

LLC Incorporation

Dianna shared that while visiting with a tax attorney (and unit member) recently on the topic, she discovered that the board being a 501 c 4 might not be allowed to become insured even if it can register as an LLC.

Background: based on the recommendation of then board member (and tax attorney) Dan Leightman during the November 2016 board meeting, a motion was passed to incorporate Unit as an LLC with expected costs to include a \$300 registration fee.

Action item: to get further clarity on this matter before registering

Web Post – Randall’s and Amazon Smile

Bill/Nancy S

Our unit or the ACBL may be able to get funds donated by others such as Randall’s and Amazon Smile by selecting Unit 174 or the ACBL from a drop down list at these websites at no cost to the user. We will post information on our website as to how to participate.

Scorecard Delivery

Bill

Just an FYI – The SCORECARD may be heading toward electronic delivery. Bill mentioned that the cost to mail is high and the Dallas unit president has asked that the scorecard be sent out electronically.



Board Meetings 2017

Bill

Bill presented the schedule of planned 2017/2018 Board Meetings.

UNIT 174 BOARD MEETINGS

9:30AM @ TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER EXCEPT AS NOTED*

2017-2018

2017

Monday, APRIL 17 @ 7PM @ WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY*

Monday, MAY 1 @ 7PM @ WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY - ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING*

Monday, MAY 15 @ 9AM @ TRACY GEE

Monday, JUNE 5 @ 7PM @ WESTSIDE BRIDGE ACADEMY*

Monday, JULY 10 (NOTE: NOT FIRST MONDAY)*

Monday, AUGUST 7

Monday, SEPTEMBER 11 (NOTE: NOT FIRST MONDAY)*

Monday, OCTOBER 2

Monday, NOVEMBER 6

NABC NOV 23RD - DEC 3RD

Monday, DECEMBER 11 (NOTE: NOT FIRST MONDAY)*

Monday, JANUARY 8 (NOTE: NOT FIRST MONDAY)*

LONE STAR REGIONAL JAN 29TH -FEB 4TH

Monday, FEBRUARY 12 (NOTE: NOT FIRST MONDAY)*

Monday, MARCH 5

Monday, APRIL 2

**THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH IS A HOLIDAY IN JULY, SEPTEMBER AND JANUARY.
NABC AND LSR END THE DAY BEFORE THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH IN DECEMBER
AND FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY.**

Playing Cards

Nancy G

Nancy requested that we provide our discarded playing cards to Help Our Military Endure (HOME) a 501(c)(3) corporation organized for charitable purposes to send care packages to active servicemen and woman serving in far off countries. The board all agreed.

Executive Session

The Board went into an executive session at 9:39pm for 6 minutes.

Future Meeting Date



The April Board Meeting will be held Monday May 15th starting at 9:00am at Tracy Gee.
The Annual Planning meeting will be held on Monday, May 1 at 7pm at WBA

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 9:47 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Laufman, Secretary

