



## Memorandum of Discussion

### ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

April 2, 2018

### Tracy Gee Community Center

#### Call to order

Nancy S.

Nancy Strohmer called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. All Directors were in attendance: Nancy Strohmer, Ken Hudson, Nancy Guthrie, David Henke, Betty Starzec, Daniel Jackson, Dianna Gittelman, John Caudill and Lauri Laufman. Also present, Treasurer Gary Hercules and Kathleen Malcolmson.

#### Approval of minutes

Lauri

The March meeting minutes were prepared and emailed to the Board

**Motion – That the March Minutes be approved as corrected.**

The motion was made by Daniel, seconded by Nancy G and approved by all.

#### Treasurer's Report

Gary

The March Treasurer's report was not presented for final approval as our board meeting date was not sufficiently timed to allow for it to be completed.

#### Old Business

#### Election Sectional

Lauri and Nancy G

Supplies delivery/pick up have been scheduled, caddies confirmed, photographer confirmed, ACBL e-blast to go out next week and speakers' topics announced.

**0-5 Game:** Flyer has been printed and an email has gone out to all club managers asking they assist in promoting the event.



**Marriot Planning Meeting:** Meeting was last Thursday. Lauri reported they are awaiting feedback and paperwork from Marriott to review. It was decided to simplify the lunch menu options to better handle the amount of players trying to redeem their vouchers and secure lunch in a timely manner.

**June Sectional ("The Big Switcheroo")**

**Daniel**

Daniel presented the initial layout of the flyer and is sending to ACBL for approval so it can then be posted and flyers printed.

He also provided a surprise --- a layout for new table guide cards that can be seen even when boards are on top of them.

They were received with such resounding excitement that it was requested they be ready in time for the upcoming Election Sectional if possible. Daniel will email the estimate for having these designed and printed once secured to the board for approval to proceed.

**August Sectional**

**David/Betty**

David and Betty want to wait to present the budget for approval as the tournament schedule is not yet finalized.

As in the past, a couple of ideas are currently being evaluated for testing out at this event. One would be a combined imp/pair game with pre-made boards and where a pair could win either as a part of a team or just as a pair. This gives each pair two chances to win

Another would be a 2 session bracketed Swiss event to be held during two evening sessions possibly Fri/Sat.

Of note, the latter would be used as a test event for the Regional since the 4-session pair game didn't have the desired turnout and attendance at knockouts has been on the decrease nationwide.

While discussing the Regional, two other suggestions were brought up for consideration. One would be to have a TAP Regional Bridge Dynamics Workshop all day Sunday and concluding Monday Morning. The other is to bring back the late night Zip (KO) Game along with a cash bar.

**Fall Sectional**

**All**

As a venue has yet to be secured for this event, Nancy S reported that the Marriott is being contacted to confirm if the last weekend in October is still available and that an update will be provided by email as soon as dates are confirmed for final approval.

**New Member Recruitment / Retention**

**All**

No report. It was reiterating that the 0-5 game at the upcoming Election Sectional is our main effort at the moment and is should continue to be heavily promoted.



## **Committee Reports**

### **Marketing Committee Report**

No report to review at this meeting

### **Website and Information Committee Report**

No report to review at this meeting.

### **Club Connection**

Nancy Guthrie is looking towards planning the next Club Connection sometime after the June Sectional and this will be discussed at next month's board meeting.

### **I/N**

No report to review at this meeting.

### **STaC Week**

**John**

As previously reported, the next STaC is October 15-21.

### **NAP Unit Qualifiers**

**John**

As previously reported, this year qualifiers will take place November 10-11, 2018 at BCOH. Daniel has secured the sanction

### **GNT 2017/2018**

**John/David**

District GNT qualifiers are May 4-6 in Houston.

No dates or rules for 2018-2019 will be available until provided by the District.

### **ABA/ ACBL Pairs Championship Game**

**John**

Event is April 7 at Tracy Gee Community Center and everything is in order.

### **AED**

**John**

Still ongoing, nothing to report at this time

### **Procedure Manual Update**

**Lauri**

There was a list of suggested files that tournament chairs upload into Box presented to be added into the procedure manual in Sections 6 and 7. Lauri recommended that these as well as others be put into a new chapter (12) instead and the chapter renamed Cloud Storage with references in the appropriate other Sections referred here.

**Motion – That a new section be created with reference to Cloud Storage**



The motion was made by Daniel, seconded by David and approved by all.

### **USBF Open Team Trials**

**Betty/Nancy S**

Things are moving along nicely in preparation for this event. Volunteers are still needed so please mention when playing at the various venues and refer any who are interested to Betty, Nancy or Shawn.

Betty also reported that there is a planning meeting with the Marriott today at 3:30pm.

### **New Business**

#### **Bridge in Schools**

**Joe Giovannangeli**

Joe Giovannangeli presented an idea that he had previously written a couple of letters broaching the subject of getting bridge more readily accepted in schools.

His approach is that if bridge were regarded as a sport, then bridge would become more attractive to students. He stated that as people like to win, the concept is to make bridge a sport so that students and schools will create teams to play competitively. Athletic Directors should respond favorably as there are not many sports that are both non-gender specific or available to those with handicaps.

Discussion followed and a plan was started. (1) Wordsmith to draw up the verbiage and to give a potential funding foundation a hook (2) Submit to someone at the Texas Sports Association who can help (3) Approach others who might jump onto this within our Unit membership, District Board, the ACBL Education Foundation Trustees and ACBL CEO, Bahar Gidwani.

Betty and Dianna agreed to be the wordsmiths for Joe's write ups so that these can be submitted to a Texas sports organization. Nancy S. agreed to research sports associations in Texas so that the write ups can be presented to such organization(s).

**ACTION ITEM:** Joe will work with Nancy Strohmer and Betty Starzec to get things in motion.

#### **Texas Star Award**

**Nancy S**

A decision has been made with regard to who has been selected for this award. Alas, it will not be shared with the membership until such time it is announced to all.

#### **Tournament Contracts, Volunteers, Restaurant Guide, LM Plaques**

**Dianna G**

Dianna spent about 10 minutes discussing a few items that she felt was important to go over as well as some points for future boards to take into consideration.



**Tournament Contracts:** When selecting a venue other than the Marriott Westchase, be aware that sometimes you will be negotiating with more than one person and that like the event last October at the North Houston Hilton one could have up to 5 different contacts and contracts. Be sure to cover catering, front desk, ballroom, equipment delivery, set-up, room block and even use of elevator if not on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

This list will be important for example if the unit is able to secure a venue in Galveston for 2019. A consideration to make a venue down there more appealing might include lowering the game rate, getting a lower ballroom rate by having food expenditures by players at the venue going towards lowering the ballroom rate.

**Volunteers:** She reminded us that many players cannot physically volunteer but do like to give back and to not be afraid to ask for monetary assistance.

**Schedules:** It's very important to players, that tournament schedules are not changed once they are published with the ACBL, and posted. It makes for hardships for players, especially out of town players.

**LM Plaques:** It is time to update our LM plaques so that it includes the ACBL logo and be sure that if a plaque is not presented by a board member that it gets to the recipient if not in person possibly by using a USPS mailer where needed.

**Restaurant Guide:** By adding the ACBL logo to our stationary, it will help secure both more discounts for our players as well as gifts we can raffle off at our Regional.

## **New Storage Bins**

**All**

As we have the funds, it has been suggested we move forward with replacing a few of our storage bins. The board was in full agreement and estimates will be secured first for those needed for our tables.

## **BOD / Volunteer Birthday Recognition / Get Well Cards**

**Nancy G**

Nancy G suggested that we start a birthday program whereby someone on the board will send a happy birthday email to board members and the key volunteers listed on our website the month of their birthday. This was met with approval and Nancy will be securing everyone's email so she can begin the program.

Also suggested by a member was that the board consider beginning a get well program and send out cards accordingly. This idea was recognized as both thoughtful and something of interest. Unfortunately after further consideration it was decided that our unit is too large and that this program was not realistic to implement as feelings might be hurt if we were not aware or notified and missed some people thus not able to provide everyone a card.



## Executive Session

**A motion was made and approved to go into Executive Session at 11:19 am.**

The Board spent 2 minutes in Executive Session.

**A motion to end Executive Session was made and approved by all.**

## Adjournment

Nancy thanked the board for their service and shared how much she has enjoyed serving with each and every one on the current board..

The next Board Meeting of 2018 will be held at Tracy Gee Community Center on Monday May 7, 2018 (at 9:30 am).

**Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.**

The motion was seconded and approved at 11:18 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Laufman, Unit Secretary

