



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

April 6, 2020

Go-To-Meeting Video Conference/Phone-In

Call to order

Lauri Laufman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Directors in attendance: Cindy Cox, Nancy Guthrie, David Henke, Lauri Laufman, Jack LaVigne, Kathleen Malcolmson, Clif Rice and Nancy Strohmer. Sheryl Thomas did not attend. Others present: Gary Hercules-Treasurer, Joyce Gore, Paul Cuneo, B Haznedar, Greg May, Karen Nussbaum, Jeanne Phelps, Joe Quinn.

Approval of Minutes

Kathleen Malcolmson

The minutes were prepared and emailed to the Board.

Motion: That the March 2020 Minutes be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy Strohmer, seconded by David Henke, and approved unanimously.

Appointment of Replacement Board Member

Lauri Laufman

Cindy Cox announced her resignation from the Board during the Executive Session of the March 2020 Board meeting, made effective at the conclusion of the April Sectional. She is thanked for her outstanding service to the Unit. Joyce Gore has been suggested to fill this vacant position.

Motion: That Joyce Gore be approved to fill the vacancy created by Cindy Cox's resignation for the duration of this position, beginning immediately.

The motion was made by Nancy Strohmer, seconded by Clif Rice, and approved unanimously.



Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

The January 2020 and February 2020 Financial Statements were verified and emailed to the Board. The March financials, also presented, are currently pending approval from the verifier.

Motion: That the January 2020 and February 2020 Financial Statements be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Nancy Strohmer, and approved unanimously.

Note that Lauri Laufman was not present during this vote due to technical difficulties. She returned after the April Sectional Report.

Old Business

April 2020 Sectional

Clif Rice/Jack LaVigne

The April Sectional was canceled due to the health concerns of both the City of Houston and Unit 174 caused by the COVID-19 virus.

Clif Rice reported \$377.00 for expenses. Gary Hercules has not yet received this report.

The District 16 Scorecard indicated that it has waived charges for this tournament.

Update by Paul Cuneo

Paul Cuneo

Please refer to New Business for this report.

Elections and Annual Meeting

Lauri Laufman

The Board Member Elections are being extended until the June Sectional. Online voting continues with in-person voting at the Sectional, the winners being announced at the Annual Membership Meeting. The Annual Membership Meeting is now planned to take place between sessions on Sunday at the June Sectional. If the June Sectional does not take place, the Annual Membership Meeting will be deferred.

A "Plan B" was discussed. If the June tournament is canceled, there will be no in-person voting. Absentee and online voting will be the only methods of voting. Dates will be chosen for the cut-off of online and absentee voting and posted on the Unit webpage. Winners will be e-blasted on the Sunday of the (canceled) tournament.



Motion: To implement “Plan B”, whereas if the June Sectional is unable to be held, voting will be extended both online and by absentee ballot. The winners will be announced on June 7th.

The motion was made by Jack LaVigne, seconded by Nancy Guthrie, and approved unanimously.

It was proposed that a postcard be designed and mailed to members to update them regarding the voting procedures and Annual Membership Meeting in the event the June tournament is not held. Postcard and mailing estimates were provided. The postcard will be mailed before the May meeting, after approval by the BOD via email.

Motion: A postcard will be sent to Unit 174 members, stating how the elections will go forward if the June tournament is held or not. Deadlines for each method of voting will be stated.

The motion was made by Jack LaVigne, seconded by Nancy Strohmer, and approved unanimously.

A budget for the postcards and mailing of \$1700-1800 was approved.

June 2020 Sectional

Clif Rice/TBA

The flyer and budget were presented. The Annual Membership Meeting will be held between sessions on Sunday. Lunch will be provided using pre-packaged meals to assure the food is “touch-free” after leaving the kitchen. A reduction of entry fees was discussed.

Nancy Guthrie was appointed to be the Intermediate/Newcomer Chair, replacing Cindy Cox. Joyce Gore was appointed to be Sectional Co-Chair.

Pre-dealt Swiss Team boards will be used to reduce the handling of cards. Daniel Jackson will be there Saturday/Sunday to assist with this process.

No treats or chits will be given to the players for this tournament.

Nancy Strohmer suggested that the stratification for Open Pairs be adjusted to match what is being proposed for the August Sectional, A:4000+ and B:750-4000.

Motion: That the Stratification of Open Pairs on the current schedule changes from 3000 to 4000 masterpoints.



The motion was made by Jack LaVigne, seconded by Nancy Guthrie, and approved unanimously.

August 2020 Sectional with I/N Regional

Lauri Laufman/TBA

Sectionals paired with I/N Regionals have seen up to a 30% rise in table count. Due to the uncertainties created by the COVID19 situation, table count estimates were more conservative, adjusted up 8% over the three-year average.

The initial budget was presented as follows:

Fees for each of the four days of the tournament will be \$10/\$10/\$10/\$10.

Pre-dealt boards for team games are in the budget.

There will be a Hospitality break.

\$1 chit will be given to players.

The current budget shows funds raised of \$1,767.00. If lunch is added on Sunday, the budget will show a \$1700.00 loss.

Parking fees are budgeted for the Directors.

Motion: To approve the August budget with lunch, or without lunch if the Annual Membership Meeting is held during this tournament.

The motion was made by Jack LaVigne, seconded by Nancy Strohmer, and approved unanimously.

The proposed schedule was presented as follows:

Stratification changes are reflected to accommodate the I/N Regional.

Sunday Open Pairs changed to single sessions.

The I/N NLM Regional is based on those done in Richardson TX with past success.

The GNT was rescheduled to take place during the August Sectional. This should have a minimal effect on team attendance for the August Sectional.

Motion: To approve the August schedule.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Jack LaVigne, and approved unanimously.

New Member Recruitment / Retention

All

No report.



STaC **Sheryl Thomas**
No report.

GNT **Clif Rice**
District 16 has moved the GNT tournament to August.

NAP **Clif Rice**
No report.

Committee Reports

Club Connection **Nancy Guthrie**
No plans for now.

Charity Report **Nancy Strohmer**
There will be a report in May. Funds are expected to be received by April 10th.

Education **Betty Starzec**
No report.

Intermediate/Newcomer **Nancy Guthrie**
No report.

Member Communications **Jeanne Phelps**
One person has renewed and one person is not renewing.

Website and Information **Carol Winograd**
Log in works for both alpha and numerical characters for the ACBL number entry.

The Unit webpage is seeing 30-35% of normal usage. This is likely because players are not checking their game scores from the Unit page. Carol will speak to BBO Club managers to determine ways to show scores from the Unit webpage.

Supplies **Clif Rice**
No report.

Awards **Sheryl Thomas**
No report.



New Business

District 16 Update

Kathleen Malcolmson

The District 16 Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Unit Board of Directors.

Procedure Manual

Kathleen Malcolmson

The Procedure Manual will have ten copies printed to distribute to the Board at the next in-person meeting. The file will be emailed to all Board Members, especially those newly elected.

Mentor/Mentee Subsidy

The M/M section of the Procedure Manual needs to be updated. Two areas it has been suggested on which to focus.

- 1) Should the Unit continue the Club subsidy?
- 2) Should Unit or Club guidelines take precedence for the M/M game?

An Ad hoc committee has been formed by the Unit President, Lauri Laufman, to answer these issues. David Henke, Nancy Strohmer, Joyce Gore and Lauri Laufman are the members on this committee.

Update from Paul Cuneo

Paul Cuneo

The ACBL Board met on the web-based platform Webinar the week of March 16th. Usually this takes place at the NABC, which had been cancelled. A restructuring motion, that has been refined over three years, has passed. Part of the result of this will be that the ACBL Board will go from twenty-Five members to thirteen.

Each Unit and the District should help make the membership aware of what constitutes ethical violations. Notices in the Scorecard and on websites will help to educate players.

The ACBL was fortunate to cancel the NABC in Columbus at no cost. There was a modest loss for materials, such as paper for the daily bulletins.

Virtual Clubs today were based on an experiment in 2019. This was useful for getting bridge clubs up and running for the situation now. Jay Whipple worked behind the scenes early in March to get the current virtual club system with BBO under way. As of today (April 6th), 150 clubs are online. Currently four clubs in the Unit are online. Carol Winograd has been helpful in getting BBO club information onto the Unit website.

Tournament Contracts/Future

Lauri Laufman/Jack LaVigne

The Fall Sectional is moving to The Shriners facility, November 6-8th. Requested the dates for October 15-17, 2021. Waiting for a response.



Team Game Updates

Jack LaVigne

There is rapid progress with the project of ACBL Live replacing BridgeScore+. It has been indicated that ACBL Live would be available for the June Sectional. This will be confirmed.

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:36 p.m., exiting at 8:40 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Nancy Strohmer; approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next Board Meeting will be May 4th at 10:30 a.m. via GoToMeeting/Phone-In.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Malcolmson, Unit 174 Secretary

