



Memorandum of Discussion
ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting
August 8, 2022
Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to Order

Thomas Rush

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by Thomas Rush after Steve Gordon made an initial report concerning the Unit's finances. Directors in attendance: Thomas Rush, Kathy McDougall, Charles Dalton, John DuBose, Steve Gordon, Byron Fackenthal, Clif Rice, Greg May, Karen Nussbaum and Sarah Springer. Also present as guests were Betty Starzec and Nancy Strohmer.

Approval of Minutes

All outstanding minutes were approved via email prior to this Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Gordon

Steve Gordon passed out the financial report and the discussion continued following the call to order. There is \$152,580.38 in the Treasury. Thomas Rush suggested laddered CD's for investing the money; Nancy Strohmer recommended Vanguard for laddered CD's.

Action Item: After discussion, it was decided that Steve Gordon and Thomas Rush would work together and present a proposal to the Board at our next meeting.

Steve Gordon recommended that the Board review the checks every month.

Old Business

Technology

Greg May

Jack LaVigne has tested the wired microphone at Shriners; Clif Rice will follow up with the person in charge at Shriners prior to the August tournament.



Procedure Manual No report

District Update No report

Club Connection **Thomas Rush**

The next Club Connection will be at the West Houston club at Shriners on August 18, and Thomas Rush stated that he hoped all BOD members would turn out for the game. John DuBose has been working on the remote clubs and he will put together a schedule for the connection every other month. Nancy Strohmer suggested that the President or a designee should speak, and we should take refreshments.

Club Manager Report **Greg May**

Greg May stated that 298 tables had been reached in the 0/50 game. They are changing to 0/50 to attract more people.

Tournament Contracts/ Future Sites **Thomas Rush**

Committee Reports

Charity Report **Nancy Strohmer**

Nancy Strohmer stated that all the Charity games are finished for July but we don't have the final numbers as yet. She will be able to make a full report at the next meeting.

I/N /Future Life Masters **Kathy McDougall/ Greg May**

Greg May reported that there were eleven tables at the FLM game on Sunday August 7 and that those in attendance really enjoyed the game. Kathy McDougall pointed out that FLM is a committee of non-elected volunteers and it is not I/N. She noted that Cindy Cox has a website for FLM and the Unit Board should keep up with it. There is a tab for Classes/Teachers & More on the website.

Discussion turned to the need for marketing. We are losing 2000 members a year and we need to stem that tide. Some feel there is too much focus on tournaments and not on member acquisition and retention. Betty Starzac noted that she will be attending an ACBL meeting about this which involved Robert Todd and she will report back to the Board. All agreed that FLM is doing a lot and the Board needs to participate.

Betty Starzac discussed the "welcome to your first tournament" packages and suggested a Pro/Am at the Regional. Board members need to greet new players. It was suggested that the IN Committee be made into a task force, and Betty Starzac volunteered to serve on the task force.

Education No report **Kathy McDougall**

New Member Recruitment No report

Unit Newsletter No report



Publicity

No report

Supplies**Clif Rice**

Clif Rice reported that the airconditioned warehouses he investigated are not convenient and very expensive. He suggested that all Section supplies be kept in one unit rather than the current two. Supplies need to be inventoried and the best time is at the end of a tournament. Board members need to make sure items are inventoried and listed after a tournament and stored in the appropriate container. It has been two years since the last inventory.

Website & Information

No report

STAC (U174)**Karen Naussbaum**

Our Unit STAC will be November 7 to 13, with Royal STAC November 14 to 20 for the District, providing two weeks of special games, with the second week offering gold points. December 5 to 11 will be another Unit STAC.

GNT*No report***NAP**

August is the last qualifying month for the NAP.

Awards**New Business****August Sectional****Greg May/John DuBose**

The flyers for the August Sectional have gone out. The plan is for Thursday lunch on your own; Friday and Saturday players can purchase sandwiches from the Ladies of the Nile upon registration and get wrist bands for the sandwiches. Sunday will be Demeris Barbecue. Junior players, (26 years of age and younger) will receive a 50% discount. Betty Starzac mentioned that the District will reimburse the discount for such players. All 299rs will be charged half-price. There are 37 \$2 bills on hand; 200 more \$2 bills will be obtained by Steve Gordon for tournament prizes. With respect to the setup, someone needs to be there early to direct volunteers as they tend to come early. Thomas Rush has the cash box; money for the caddies has been requested and budgeted. There is a diagram for the tables and chairs for the setup.

Karen Naussbaum brought up the issue of snacks—popcorn or pretzels. The consensus was pretzels are easier on the cards.



We expect a loss of \$8000-\$9000, counting on 40% of usual attendance.

Karen is purchasing water; Kathy McDougall is buying soft drinks.

The caddies will be there from 10:00 to 12:30 and 2:30 to 5:30. Trash cans will be available at the perimeter of the playing space; small trashcans are too messy and hard to clean up.

Motion made by Clif Rice that no small trash cans be used. The motion was approved.

Nancy Strohmer noted that an hourly rate should be decided on caddies who are needed to come early or stay late. The caddies are paid \$45 per session, \$90 per day, and \$100 the last day for the end-of-tournament clean up.

Greg May stated that the bridge pads will be delivered Thursday morning.

October Sectional

Clif Rice/Sarah Springer

The flyer for the October sectional is ready and has been given to Directors of the various clubs. Clif Rice is working on the budget, basing numbers on the April tournament.

Houston Regional

Thomas Rush/Karen Nussbaum

This will be a great tournament. There will be an evening game as well as the day games; there will be ABA/ACBL games at Regional. There will be a Directors Course (every year) and the Teachers Course which is every other year. The Unit will pay for the classes two times per year.

There will be a Hospitality Suite for new players, a teachers'/Directors' reception, volunteer reception. There will be signage for the Newcomers reception and there will be reminders on the tables.

Speakers at the Regional will receive gift cards. It was noted that speakers need to be lined up earlier and marketing needs to start early. Betty Starzac and Nancy Strohmer will work on lining up speakers now, especially the Keynote Speaker.

Nominations Committee

Chair needs to be appointed now.

Board Meetings

Rooms for the 2023 Board meetings need to be lined up.

Next Board Meeting

Karen Nussbaum

September 12, 2022 at 9:15 AM, Tracy Gee.



Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Made by Clif Rice.

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Springer, Unit 174 Secretary

