



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

August 7, 2023

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to Order

Karen Nussbaum

President Karen Nussbaum brought the meeting to order at 9:15 am; board members present at the meeting were Thomas Rush, Charles Dalton, John DuBose, Paddy Fiorino, Steve Gordon, Antoun Henri, Dave Becker, Sarah Springer, Nile Gross, Siraj Jiwani. Also present was Betty Starzec.

Approval of minutes

Paddy Fiorino

PF presented minutes from the July 10 meeting which had been previously circulated via email to the board. SS moved that the minutes be approved; DB seconded the motion and **minutes for the July 10 meeting were APPROVED.** SS stated that board members need to promptly review the minutes when sent out by email, and that edits need to be submitted well before the next meeting. BS suggested that minutes be put on a consent agenda to save time so that the minutes can be automatically approved at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Gordon

SG reported unit funds of approximately \$137,000 in cash, \$105,000 in the Vanguard accounts, and \$31,000 in the checkbook, and a small amount of cash. SG discussed the recent check registry sent by email to the board.. He noted a \$2800 deposit this month as a refund from the ACBL for sanction fees for the 2023 LSR. BS stated this was a table fee refund from the district to individual units that had regionals. There was also \$2300 from the ACBL as our share of the membership dues this quarter. There was a discussion of other cash items listed for printer ink, pack and send items.



Club Manager Report**Greg May, Karen Nussbaum**

KN presented a written summary from Greg May. He reported 5 tables at the 0-50 unit game. As of August 1, the following table counts are noted: 2023-117; 2022-207; 2021-171.

Technology**Thomas Rush**

TR reported no progress with setting up a FB account. He will find someone to assist him with more expertise in this area by the next meeting. TR will address correcting the email issues reported today by SJ.

Microphone System**Karen Nussbaum**

KN reported that David Littman will assist in the set-up of the new sound system on Wed 8/9.

Old Business**Karen Nussbaum**

JD reported that he ordered 120 decks of new cards. KN stated that 25 I/N packets are scheduled for delivery by Wed 8/9. KN stated she also ordered 120 decks of new cards. Cards will be inspected and replaced by the board beginning Wednesday. KN and SS will be onsite when set-up begins at 10 am.

August Sectional**Sarah Springer**

SS reported that all lunch plans are completed, and tournament chair-persons are in place. I/N newcomer packet delivery is anticipated. SJ is working on the welcome letter for the packets. KN will print out the needed free plays. DB stated he is now unable to attend the sectional. AH will bring the sodas already in stock on Wednesday. KN will bring the water in stock. Inventory will be taken at that time and nonspecified board members will obtain any needed additional drink supplies. BS stated that she will try to order convention guide cards for the I/N packets (which are not available through Baron Barclay) but these may not be available until the LSR. KN stated that a link to Entry Express is available on the unit website to pre-order entries for the sectional. A link will be listed on all subsequent tournament flyers. SG will announce this at the Apple game today and should be announced by a board member during the Shriner game on Wednesday.



Procedure Manual and Bylaws**Sarah Springer**

SS reminded board members that she is making ongoing changes to the manuals and that the approved amendments are in Box.

Club Connection**Sarah Springer**

Next club connection is 8/21 at BCOH. SS, NG, CD, AH, TR plan to attend. Possible attendees are JD, SJ. Clear Lake and Conroe club connection game is still being planned but dates have not yet been set and SS will follow-up with these clubs. SS stated that a club connection date for Spring Branch will also be scheduled.

Moody Gardens Sectional October**Karen Nussbaum**

KN stated that she plans to meet today with Moody Gardens rep. Other persons attending will be Greg May, SS, DB. Contract negotiations are planned.

Sectional at the Clubs/ Other Tournaments**Karen Nussbaum**

KN stated that Houston remains not eligible for this program. KN reported that Unit 174 gets one I/N regional in 2024. Scheduling options were discussed by the board. SS stated this should be during a 4 day tournament and the I/N 2024 regional is now planned for August 2024 at the Shriners. SJ will obtain the ACBL sanction. KN states Bridge Academy of West Houston is planning a sectional in Feb 2026. Discussion by the board ensued stating that a 90 day notice is required for director approval for tournaments.

Lone Star Regional**Karen Nussbaum**

KN distributed a draft of a flyer for the LSR. Speakers are not yet listed. The Best Practices Teacher class has a \$50.00 charge. The new Monday am game will be added to the flyer. KN plans to send draft to the ACBL tomorrow. KN plans to meet with rep for Marriott for contract negotiations in September. A lunch is planned to be provided on Friday and other changes are pending. TR presented flyers from recent tournaments for review to the board to discuss meal and entertainment options. Adding pictures of the Houston skyline onto the flyer was discussed and TR will check into possible royalty fees. KN discussed that the planned Hospitality Chair for the upcoming LSR is unable to print the labels. The board discussed possibly pre-ordering the labels through a link on the unit website prior to the LSR. KN also reported that several recent regionals have included online night games. The online game must be done on nights when there is an actual F2F game. KN will



obtain more information at the upcoming Dallas regional. This game will need to be added to the flyer if added. There was a lengthy discussion on changing the event naming procedure. SS presented a draft of events available for event naming. An over-all sponsor for the LSR in addition to the individual games was discussed with a possible fee structure. Jane Armstrong is the Chair Person for the LSR; BS will assist. TR suggested that the board also consider sponsors for Hospitality gifts, candy, prizes, and I/N packets. DB also discussed promotional gifts as the regional give-aways and he will follow-up. BS stated convention card holders were another possible sponsorship opportunity. SS and DB will continue to address sponsorship issues.

Hilton Bryan

Dave Becker

DB reported that contract negotiations with the Bryan Hilton are in progress.

I/N—Future Life Master

Sarah Springer

SS relayed a verbal report from Betty Westbrook that the 299 games are doing well.

New Member Recruitment/Betty's Letter

Betty Starzek

BS discussed the new initiative by the ACBL CEO to send out postcards to lapsed members to rejoin and get a \$20 credit for F2F games. The district wants board members to follow-up with telephone calls to each person. This needs to be completed ASAP as the offer to rejoin and receive the \$20 credit expires Labor Day 2023 (though the F2F credit is good for nearly one year.) TR will obtain the list and split it up between the board members. Board members were requested to report any deceased persons names to BS. BS emphasized that lapsed members need to be contacted asap as they must rejoin by Labor Day for the promotion.

Education

Karen Nussbaum

KN reported that Joyce Ryan has an upcoming beginner class scheduled.



Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by DB. NG seconded. All were in favor.

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paddy Fiorino, Unit 174 Board Secretary

