



## Memorandum of Discussion

### ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

December 5, 2022

### Tracy Gee's Community Center

#### Call to Order

**Kathleen McDougall**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by President Kathleen McDougall. Directors in attendance: Kathleen McDougall, Karen Nussbaum, Greg May, Sarah Springer, Thomas Rush, Charles Dalton, John DuBose, Byron Fackenthall, Clif Rice, Also present Nancy Strohmmer and Treasurer Steve Gordon.

#### Announcements

**Kathleen McDougall**

President Kathleen McDougall announced that Paul Cuneo has been appointed interim Executive Director of the ACBL. Also, Betty Starzec has been named ACBL honorary member of the year. KM pointed out that Betty has over forty years of experience and has been an inspiration for our Unit.

#### Approval of Minutes

**Sarah Springer**

NS made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. CR abstained from voting as he had not yet reviewed the minutes. All were in favor: Minutes from the previous meeting stand approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

**Steve Gordon**

SG reported that there remains \$132,000 in the bank and noted \$12,000 due to the Marriott had been paid. He has been receiving checks for naming at the Lone Star Regional which are not included in the current balance. The CD's previously discussed have not yet been purchased. CR made a motion that three staggered CC's of \$25,000 each be purchased at Vanguard in the month of December and that KM and SG are authorized to accomplish this. After some discussion, there was a vote held and all were in favor. Motion Carried.



SG stated that as of the end of November there has been a \$54,000 loss for the year, \$44,000 from the Regional and \$11-12,000 total from the three sectionals.

The Verifier has not yet approved the Treasurer's report. CR made a motion to approve the November Treasurer's Report subject to approval of the verifier. All were in favor; Motion Carried.

## Old Business

### Technology

Greg May

SG stated he has had issues uploading to Box. There was discussion of the viability of changing to another platform such as Google Docs. NS agreed to investigate the options. GM noted that he would be rolling off the Board and a new Box manager would be needed and suggested SG take on this role. SG agreed to manage Box once GM is off the board and TR agreed to be the backup Box Manager.

Discussion of unit-specific emails was tabled.  
GM will follow up with Daniel Jackson concerning Box.

### Procedure Manual

Karen Nussbaum

No Report.

### District Update

Betty Stazac

No report

### Club Connection

John Dubose

JD has been in touch with Jim Warren of the Cypress Club concerning Club Connection for January. After discussion it was agreed that January Club Connection will be at the Cypress Club on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:30 am.

### Club Manager Report

Greg May

No report

### Tournament Contracts/ Future Sites

Thomas Rush

No report



## Committee Reports

### Charity Report

**Nancy Strohmer**

NS stated that she would be presenting a check to the Houston Food Bank at the Lone Star Regional. She praised Brigitte Sandifer who donated \$1200 to the Unit Charity in lieu of having a Christmas party at Apple. With the \$714 already collected the addition of \$1200 will allow for \$1,914 to go to the Houston Food Bank, and there may be additional monies collected. NS informed the Board that both Paul Cuneo and Brigitte Sandifer donated every penny from Apple BBO games to the Houston Food Bank.

NS will write an article about Brigitte Sandifer's dedication to charity for the Newsletter, the Scorecard, and the website.

### I/N /Future Life Masters

**Kathy McDougall/ Greg May**

KM noted that FLM is seeking expense reimbursement reauthorization from the Board. TR made a motion to authorize up to \$2500 for the FLM to furnish support for the program. It was discussed that in the past 11 months there has been \$2900 in income and \$1100 in expenses. Jack Lavigne has been directing the games free of charge; it is the long-term goal to have clubs to pick up the FLM games. There will be mentor/mentee games on Tuesdays starting in February and there will be Swiss team games once a month on Saturdays. There have been 361 tables to date; the longer-range goal is for the program to expand to promote bridge and expand the FLM program. CR made an amendment to TR's motion, that the Board authorize up to \$2500 to fund the program for the 2023 calendar year, with the intent that the program become self-sufficient. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

It was noted that the Romanian Bridge Federation President visited the limited Shriner's game, that there is a subsidy for mentor/mentee games, and that teachers are also subsidized.

Further discussion was tabled.

### Education

**Kathy McDougall**

Discussion was had concerning the Robert Todd ACBL education program. Joyce Ryan is teaching the Boost program. Facebook and Instagram are being utilized.

### New Member Recruitment

**Charles Dalton**

The retiree initiative will be discussed at the next meeting.

### Unit Newsletter/Website



Jeanne Phelps is staying on as Newsletter Editor and will be working to get Evvie Gilbert up to speed to take over fully as Editor. Allison Ochsner is willing to take over the website but will need to have help from time to time. It was mentioned that John Magyari, the District 16 Webmaster, would be able to assist Allison.

## **Publicity**

No report

## **Supplies**

**Clif Rice**

CR will do an inventory prior to the Regional.

## **STAC (U174)**

**Karen Naussbaum**

No Report.

## **GNT and NAP**

**Karen Naussbaum**

NAP flights B and C will be held at our April tournament; the others will be in Austin. KN does not have much data on the GNT at present.

## **Awards**

**Karen Nussbaum**

KN has been sending out Life Master plaques.

## **Houston Regional**

**Kathy McDougall/Karen Nussbaum**

KM and KN informed the board that the speakers have been lined up and the budget has been approved. JD has negotiated discounts with restaurants in the Westchase area for the tournament. Teacher Appreciation will be on Friday. The Unit will pay for hotdogs and the District will pay cakes. KN will speak to Betty Starzec about the District paying for a third cake. The District also pays for the breakfast.

NS discussed event naming. John Herzer is the Chair. Board members need to make announcements about the naming opportunities at club games. NS will ask Merrill Lynch for a \$500 event naming again for the 8th year.

It was decided not to do an expert panel at this tournament.

We need ten attendees at both the Teachers' Course and the Directors' Course for the classes to go forward.

The Volunteer luncheon will be Thursday in the Unit's suite at the hotel. The FLM reception will be in the suite as well. It is scheduled for Tuesday but may be moved to Wednesday.



Cindy Cox has stated that the I/N Desk does not have to be manned by a Board Member. There will be two cocktail tables with brochures in the main lobby.

TR discussed hand records for the Swiss teams. NS stated that slow play is a problem and an extra caddy is needed as well as extra boards. TR is investigating and will email a report to the Board. If we are providing the hand records, the directors and caddies need to be educated on what is required for it to work.

KN has researched the hospitality gifts. The board approved a flashlight with our logo for the gifts.

The board will make nominations via email for Goodwill Award and Star Award.

### **Nominations Committee**

Carol Irvin and Delores Aquino have been chairing the nominations committee. The slate has not been finalized. Board members were urged to ask people to run and to email Carol and Delores about appropriate candidates.

### **New Business**

**Kathleen McDougall**

Paul Cuneo negotiated a new contract with Moody Gardens for our 2023 Halloween Sectional. CR made a motion to accept the new contract and authorize Kathleen McDougall to execute it. All were in favor. Motion Carried. KM stated we should all thank Paul Cuneo for his efforts.

CR agreed to chair the April Sectional; CD agreed to be Co-Chair. They will present the budget at the next meeting. Ladies of the Nile from Shriners will do the lunches.

KN noted that as she is running for reelection to the Board she cannot fulfill the duty of the VP to run the election in April. The job will fall to Secretary SS and KN will email her concerning the duties.

### **Next Board Meeting**

**Kathleen McDougall**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at Tracy Gee's Community Center on January 9, 2023 at 9:15 AM.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by CR. All were in favor.

Motion carried



***The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Sarah Springer, Unit 174 Secretary*

