



Memorandum of Discussion
ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2015
Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to order

Beverley Cheatham

Beverley Cheatham, president of Unit 174, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Directors present were: Beverley Cheatham, Chuck Ensor, Kathy Hughes, Daniel Jackson, Tom Martinsen, Bill Riley and Nancy Strohmer. Gary Hercules, treasurer for Unit 174, and Paul Cuneo, President of District 16 and Tournament Site Coordinator for Unit 174, were present.

Bob Armstrong participated by phone conference call.

Rhonda Bryant was absent.

Approval of minutes

Bob Armstrong

Bob had emailed copies of the January minutes to the Board members.

Motion: That the January Minutes be approved.

The above motion was made by Nancy Strohmer and seconded by Tom Martinsen. The motion was approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

The December 2014 and January 2015 treasurer's reports were presented by Gary. Gary Hercules had sent them by Email. There was a discussion about balances.

Motion: That the Treasurer's reports be approved.

The above motion was made by Bill Riley and seconded by Nancy Strohmer. The motion was approved by all present.

The Verifiers report had been received.



Beverley recognized Shawn. After introducing the issue, Shawn discussed the possibility of holding one of two team trials (Seniors and Open Pairs) in Houston. Since this would involve a lot of volunteer help, Shawn emphasized that holding this would have to be something the Unit would really like to do. The event would be administered by the US Bridge Federation which is charged with supporting international competition and establishing the rules under which the competition is held. She then described some of the benefits to the members of the unit.

- Exposure of a very high level of competition to the Unit membership.
- Because of the security and structure of the event, members would be able to watch video of the actual completion.
- Aligning the event with a regularly scheduled Sectional would provide additional opportunity for exposure.
- Additional room rentals by the competitors could potentially reduce rental costs of holding the regional.
- Holding this event in Houston may draw even more visitors to see the event.

The discussion then centered around holding the Senior Trial in conjunction with the June 2017 or 2019 sectional. Shawn suggested establishing a sub-committee to plan participation.

Shawn closed her presentation by repeating that the Board should not feel pressured to consider hosting this event. She also recommended discussing this with people who were involved in previous events. Shawn then left the meeting.

The District meeting was held on January 31.

Officers for 2015 are Paul Cuneo – President, Tomi Fitzgerald – 1st Vice President and Greg Loran – 2nd Vice President. Lew Levy is Executive Treasurer and Rebecca Brown is Executive Secretary.

Actions taken:

Jim Woodward was appointed as Financial Verifier for the District, who will serve without pay.

Carolyn Worsham was appointed Publicity Chair.

District fees from Unit 187 which were due in connection with its 2014 regional were waived for approximately \$1200. By having 2 Regionals so close together in the fall the board felt Corpus was hurt with low attendance.

The District recommends that all tournaments be fragrance-free.

Teacher Training - Paul Cuneo proposed that TAP should be offered at two small Regionals, to be funded by the District (with attendees paying only for materials and snacks.) He suggested that perhaps the two Regionals should be San Antonio and Tyler. Juniors (i.e., under 26) may attend for free. Betty Starzec has offered to do the training. In addition, Paul Cuneo recommended that the District fund two director refresher courses, also at the smaller Regionals. The total cost for both programs will be \$4,000 annually.

The District adopted a new format for Agenda and policies regarding our board meetings.



Old Business

Lone Star Regional (2015)

Beverley Cheatham

Beverley reported that early results were less than budgeted; however there are still expenses coming in and there appears to be an erroneous charge for director rooms. Gary Hercules was asked to follow up on these items. There was then a discussion of some of the comments received. The majority had to do with the schedule. An extensive brain-storming session dealt with revisions to the schedule for the 2016 LSR. Several suggestions were made, including the insertion of a 499 game, doing away with Compact KO's, starting times, KO's versus Bracketed Swiss, etc. It was suggested that we attempt to have a flier available for the Spring NABC in New Orleans.

Paul Cuneo presented an analysis of the table counts for the 2015 LSR for use in planning potential schedule modifications. He also presented three options for the schedule for the 2016 LSR.

1. Adapt current schedule

- a. Monday at 2:30 begin a 2 session Bracketed Swiss and eliminate the Mon – Thurs KO.
- b. Eliminate the night Compact KOs and play single session Swiss or BAM at 7:30 pm.

2. Eliminate KOs and focus on Swiss

- a. Monday as in option 1
- b. Tuesday, and Saturday play Bracketed Swiss at 10 and 2:30 pm
- c. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday play Stratiflighted Swiss. Consider moving "B" to 3500 and x to 4500.
- d. Evenings as in option 1 except Monday

3. Alternate KO and Bracketed Swiss

- a. Monday as in Option 1
- b. Tuesday at 10 am begin a 4 session KO
- c. Wednesday at 10 am begin a 2 session Bracketed Swiss
- d. Thursday at 10 am begin a 4 session KO
- e. Friday at 10 am begin a 2 session Bracketed Swiss
- f. Saturday at 10 am begin a Compact KO
- g. Evenings as in option 1 except Monday

After discussion, the Board voted and selected Option 2 as the one to pursue.

April 2015 Sectional

Nancy/ Chuck

Nothing new to report. Since this will be the Annual Meeting, several things need to be available (i.e. Minutes from the 2014 Meeting, the Treasurer's Report, as well as copies of the proposed Bylaw amendment). Documents for members to "Opt Out" will also be available.

June 2015 Sectional

Bob/TBD

Bob had emailed copies out for review. He commented on the basis and the resulting budget as a breakeven proposal.

Motion: That the Proposed Budget for the June Sectional be approved.



The above motion was made by Chuck Ensor and seconded by Bill Riley. The motion was approved by all present.

Bob then stated that the flier would be given to Bert for preparation.

August 2015 4-Day Sectional

Beverley/TBD

Nothing to report at this time

November 2015 Sectional

Daniel/Bill

Daniel circulated the list of Name the Event votes. None of the suggestions were considered a clear favorite.

GNT/NAP, STaC

Tom Martinsen

NAP – Nothing to report

GNT – Scheduled for February 22.

STaC – Nothing to report

ABA/ACBL Bridge Event

Nancy

Joyce Gore has agreed to be the director. Additional Constant Contacts will be sent. Nancy has announced the event at the Westside Bridge Academy with Bert Onstott agreeing as a support of good will. She plans to do so at other clubs.

The event will be held at Tracy Gee on February 28 at 10:30.

New Business

Supply Cabinets

Tom Martinsen

Tom commented on the poor condition of some of the supply cabinets and suggested that we investigate replacing about 4 that are in the worst condition. He stated that he would not be here for the April Sectional and was concerned with this issue. Chuck suggested having someone look at the current carts to see if repair is feasible. Tom is unsure whether or not repair will work.

Tom also mentioned that we have a number of older boards that are in bad shape. Beverley asked Tom to prepare an estimate of the associated costs for the next meeting.

Replacement

Beverley Cheatham

Beverley said that Barbara La Vigne has asked to be replaced as the Reporter. Beverley asked for recommendations. Since the position is responsible for reporting ethics violations, selection of a replacement is a critical issue.

Rhonda Bryant

Beverley Cheatham

Rhonda Bryant elected to use missing the fourth Board Meeting in one "Election Year" to resign from the Board, thereby being subject to removal from the Board of Directors. Beverley Cheatham asked for the Directors to respond with a "Yes" vote to invoke Article VI, Section 7 of the Unit 174 Bylaws. The "yes" votes were unanimous.

Executive Session

Beverley requested a motion for moving to Executive Session



Motion: That the normal session be closed and the Board move to Executive Session.

Motion was made by Chuck Ensor, seconded by Nancy Strohmer and approved by all present.

The board was in executive session for 5 minutes.

Future Board Meetings

The next UNIT Board meeting will be held on Monday March 2, 2015 at 9:30 AM at Tracy G.

Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was made by Bill Riley, seconded by Chuck Ensor and approved by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Armstrong, Secretary

