



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

February 12, 2018

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to order

Nancy S.

Nancy Strohmer called the meeting to order at 9:25 am. Directors in attendance: Nancy Strohmer, Ken Hudson, Nancy Guthrie, David Henke and Daniel Jackson. Missing: Bill Riley, Dianna Gittelman, John Caudill and Lauri Laufman. Also present, Treasurer Gary Hercules, Kathleen Malcolmson and Jack LaVigne.

Approval of minutes

Lauri

The January meeting minutes were prepared and emailed to the Board

Motion – That the January Minutes be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy G., seconded by Daniel and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

Gary

The December Treasurer's report was presented for final approval.

Motion – That the December Treasurer's report be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy G, seconded by Daniel and approved by all.

The January Treasurer's report was presented for approval.

Motion – That the January Treasurer's report be approved.

The motion was made by David and seconded by Daniel and approved by all.

Comments from the Treasurer and discussion items were:

- 1) During the 2018 LSR, cash and checks were stolen totaling \$33,580.00 and it is the responsibility of the ACBL to make restitution to Unit 174. The money was in the possession of the Director in Charge who is employed by the



ACBL. The ACBL's insurance will cover this loss. Gary has reviewed the financial activity from the 2018 LSR and the net amount owed to the Unit is \$30,193.60.

- 2) Vendor commissions from the 2018 has yet to be collected. Nancy S. to send email to vendors reminding them of accounting for and remitting money due the Unit from sales at the 2018 LSR.
- 3) Gary to send 1099 to individual who prepared boards for the 2018 LSR.

Nancy S. asked for approval for tips given and miscellaneous expenditures from the LSR that were not included in the budget.

Motion – That the tips to Marie France for \$50.00 and Izzy of \$30.00 and a \$10.00 meal reimbursement be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy G, seconded by Ken and approved by all.

- 4) The latest financials from Gary do not include the invoice from and payment to the Marriott and transportation costs for supplies. Nancy and Ken working with vendors to present invoice.
- 5) The Board has made the recommendation for future tournaments at the Marriott that daily receipts received **by the Directors** be counted in a separate room and kept in the Marriott vault.

Old Business

District Report

Nancy S.

The District Scorecard delivery policy is being changed. This issue is the last that will be mailed to individuals. Future Scorecard editions will be printed and bulk mailed to clubs that have expressed interest in this program. Scorecard editions will be available at the clubs and this program will last for at least 2 years. The Scorecard will still be available on-line. Award submittal deadlines for the Jacoby award is June 30th and the Texas Star award is November 30th. Nancy S. had an agenda item at the District meeting to discuss impact of the Regional At-Sea sailing with our fall sectional. Nancy determined that one-third of the Regional attendees were from Texas and felt this had a definitive impact on our Fall tournament and Nancy will ask that Paul Cuneo send a request to the ACBL for monetary compensation.

One discussion item – Nancy to ask Paul Cuneo about the 3,000 table requirement and when we have to meet this again for the District to keep a regional tournament

2018 LSR

Nancy S/Ken

Nancy provided an update via email prior to the meeting and went over key items/events.



The goal was accomplished—surpassing 3,000 tables. Actual count = 3,045.5 tables.

Nancy thanked all the Board members who stepped up and made the 2018 LSR a huge success. Also thanks to Gary Hercules, and all the volunteers!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It takes a genuine team effort to host a Regional and we are so, so fortunate to be gifted with so many in our Unit!!! ALL of you did more than expected and all of you did nothing short of exceptional!!! **THANK YOU!!!!**

Special Events: Well received.

Jan 30, Tues: Dan Morse Recognition Day—banner & cake with a “Thank You” to Dan

Jan 31, Wed: 0-5 Promotion Day at 10 & 2:30 games

Feb 1, Thurs: Volunteer Appreciation Day—a banner was made by Speedy Printing which can be used in the future

Feb 1, Thurs: Open Reception hosted by Jay Whipple, ACBL President after the 2:30 game. Well attended and Jay was totally accessible. Reception honored Volunteers.

Feb 2, Fri: Town Hall meeting with Jay Whipple and a Q&A session at 1:30. Well attended.

Feb 2, Fri: SEARCH check presentation just prior to the 2:30 game

Feb 2, Fri: Teacher Appreciation Day after the 2:30 game (hot dogs & cake). Gary King (Houston) was the recipient of the D16 Star Teacher Award.

Speakers: Excellent talks!

Jan 29: Gary King – Three Things That Will Improve Your Bridge Game

Jan 30: Janice Seamon-Molson - Understanding Support Doubles

Jan 31: Mike Passell – Q&A

Feb 1: Carolyn Fox - What is an Opening Hand?

Feb 2: Shawn Quinn – Hand Evaluation and Re-evaluation

Feb 3: Sylvia Shi & Daniel Korbel – Two-Way New Minor

Daily Bulletin: Daily Bulletin printing/delivery went smoothly. Ivette Chapman, owner of Speedy Printing was PHENOMENAL!!! Many commented on the extra value of enjoying the Bulletin online and in color through Fast Results. A bonus for receipts was the \$700 “advertising package” that Alice Travel bought. The \$100 fee for using Bridge Finesse was well worth the cost.

Pre-duplicated hands: Silvia Toledo (WBA) was in charge of making the boards. She did an excellent job and duplicated 147 boards at \$7/ board. A check was given to her for \$1,029.

Posters for Speakers and BOD candidates: One speaker poster was made and two BOD candidate posters. Bert Onstott provided the artwork and Speedy made them.

Hospitality/Registration: All received Sam Khayatt’s report via email on February 9th. Sam worked extremely hard, players loved the free labels and Sam did a great job chairing!

Partnership: Lauri did a fantastic job hooking up people!

I/N and –0-5 game: Nancy Guthrie will provide a report on these. Guthrie did a superb job in the I/N area and at the 0-5 game.



Caddies: Caddies worked well and there were many compliments regarding Marie France.

Photographer: Al Fortier, as usual, did a great job and got the photos to Speedy each night in a timely manner.

Event Naming: Bill reported separately and did a fantastic job in securing lots of named events. The “Day Naming” proved to be a popular and successful idea.

Director’s Course: Bill reported separately.

BIG Texan Lease-Laird Pairs Championship event: Larry Laird graciously donated the \$1500 prize money. Please thank Larry. There was minimal participation. 1st place went to Tom Peters and John Zilic and 2nd to Daniel Jackson and Mike Doyle.

Restaurant Guide: Professionally done and full of great discount opportunities. The players really appreciated what Dianna Gittelman and her committee provided. It's like what we would get at the Nationals. Many kudos to the Restaurant Guide Committee. Together they called on over 100 restaurants, making it possible to give away over \$2.500 in door prizes and discounts in over 25 restaurants. Thanks to chair Dianna Gittelman and committee members Tom Hogle, Kathleen Malcolmson, Katherine Onstott, Donna Sparks, Rhonda Bryant and Mary Watters.

Book Sales: Jeremy Lewis had good tournament sales and requested to return next year and to be in the same location, same number of tables.

Clothing Sales: Graham Crackers. 10% of sales go to Unit 174.

Jewelry Sales: Siam Jewelry Aspen. 10% of sales go to Unit 174.

Aquarium set up: Fish Gallery’s aquarium is nice addition because it is relaxing to the players. In order for them to do this, we ask that they purchase a \$100 ad Directory and/or Bulletin.

Marriott:

All went well with minimal complaints **until** Sunday. All complaints have been detailed in my previous reports regarding the pros and cons of the tournament and in the comment section of the Survey Results.

Marriott Points:

Marriott Points were used to pay for the rooms that the unit reserves for approved volunteers.

A \$10 meal ticket was provided to players for lunch and they were to make their selection at the Concessions.

All have received the Feb 5 email that was sent to Romy Botello with the Marriott. Ken and I had a phone conference call meeting with Romy and the Director of Food and Beverage, Dean



on Feb 8. Following our phone meeting, I sent an email to all recapping the meeting as well as a request to hear back from the Marriot on Friday (Feb 9) as to what they will offer for the fiasco at the LSR Sunday lunch. I requested this so that Ken and I could provide the board the information prior to the Feb 12 meeting. There has been no response.

After the phone meeting, Ken and I strongly believe that the Marriott does not understand the gravity of Sunday's lunch disaster; it was clear to us that they thought we were exaggerating the severity of the situation. We repeatedly expressed the sequence of events, the running out of food, the lack of management bringing order to the situation, the chaos that was created by no food and hundreds of people who were not served lunch.

I/N and 0-5 Game Report

Nancy G./Nancy S.

The I/N Coordinator (Nancy Guthrie) did a fantastic job championing these games. Attendance was better than expected and this is so important to the Unit in growing our game with new players. There were a couple of issues that will be addressed prior to the Election Sectional including the game table set-up to ensure players movement is smooth and understood, review tournament directors working the I/N games, improved communication to ensure all are prepared for the days game. The fish bowl award of mentor games was well liked and will continue.

LSR Event Naming

Bill and NancyS.

Bill sent a report to the Board that was reviewed. The event naming for the LSR was the most successful in recent years. Several factors contributed to the success.

1. The unfortunate loss of several very beloved members of UNIT 174 in 2017.
2. The contributions from a number of the ads obtained by Nancy Strohmer and Dan Leightman.
3. The addition of the ability to name an entire day for a member.

Recommendations for next year.

1. Continue the day naming.
 - a. Need to define exactly what the day naming means.
 - i. Would recommend that the entire side series not be included if someone wants to use the entire series for an individual. However, one game should never be sold on such a day.
 - b. The UNIT board should decide to limit the number of days. There could be a year when all of the 7 days are sold and leave no room for other honorees. During this year there were more than 20 different honorees.
 - c. Do not have a special day like Dan Morse day on the same day when all the events are bought to honor or recognize someone.
2. Continue selling ads – consider using them to underwrite the Sunday meal.
3. Start advertising event naming at the Fall sectional.

LSR Director's Course

Bill and NancyS.

Bill sent a report to the Board that was reviewed.



The course was extraordinarily well received. There were 21 attendees who took the course. 20 took the exam. This was the largest attendance for a full director course at our regional. There were an additional 5 attendees who attended for a refresher course – given the new rules. We had 4 last minute cancellations. There was one unit 174 member who was taking it so that he could be a back-up for the club in Galveston. There were 4 members of unit 174 from Katy who play in and run the non-sanctioned game in Katy. An encouraging sign for that game. We had 3 attendees from out of state –Michigan and Pennsylvania.

The course instructor was Melody Euler. She received outstanding comments from the attendees. The ACBL was also impressed with the number of participants. So partly as a result of these comments and the tremendous success, she has been asked to teach the course in Philadelphia at the NABC.

Financially, we probably lost money. I was under the impression that the district would underwrite the cost of the director teaching the course. That will not be done. She did charge her travel to the tournament since she was one of the directors at the tournament. In addition there is a \$12 per test taken fee charged by the ACBL that was not budgeted. So the \$50 per person was insufficient to cover costs.

I do not have the final expenses. Gary should be able to break out the coffee from the hotel and other cost for the final report.

My recommendations

We should repeat this course every 4 years. Every 2 years is too close together for our area.

The district should underwrite part of the expenses.

The district should encourage another regional to hold one at the 2 year mark.

The unit should continue to make the course inexpensive to encourage attendance. I would expect a loss of \$500-1000. A small cost for competent directors.

The unit should offer yearly update courses for certified directors in the unit and encourage all clubs in our unit to have their directors attend. The unit board might offer some incentive or reward for having their directors attend.

The unit should suggest to the ACBL that they should require Continuing Education every 5 years to maintain their director certification.

Election Sectional

Nancy G

Nancy G. reported that the speakers have been named – Dave Glandorf and Julie Halperin.

The Partnership, Hospitality and I/N Coordinators have been named.

Nearly Summer Sectional ("The Big Switcheroo")

Daniel



Daniel reported that the Rosegarden room is not available until Saturday – therefore the Big Switcheroo will take place Friday night and volunteer help will be needed to make happen.

New Member Recruitment / Retention

All

Committee Reports

Marketing Committee Report

No report to review at this meeting

Website and Information Committee Report

No report to review at this meeting.

Club Connection

It was determined that the next Club Connection will be Thursday March 29th at the Lone Star Bridge Club in Conroe. Game start is 10:30. Nancy G. is coordinating.

I/N

No report to review at this meeting.

STaC Week

John

No discussion on this topic

NAP Unit Qualifiers

John/David

No discussion on this topic

GNT 2017/2018

John/David

GNT Flight B qualifying round will begin Friday May 4th at the Election Sectional. Flights A and C qualifying rounds will start Saturday and all will continue thru Sunday finals. .

2018-2019 Directory

David

Nancy S. to pick up copies of the directory from storage and work to get to full service clubs,.

Unit Charity /Championship Games

Daniel

Nothing to report on this topic.

Storage Unit

Ken/Lauri

Delivery of supplies by Pack and Send went very well. Delivery was made on Friday to the Marriott saving Saturday pay rate and pick-up on Monday went very well. Awaiting invoice to make final determination if Unit will continue using same delivery service. .

New Business



Grand LM award options/pricing

Dianna

No report was made at this meeting and will be discussed at next Board meeting.

Executive Session

A motion was made and approved to go into Executive Session.

The Board spent 30 minutes in Executive Session.

A motion to end Executive Session was made and approved by all.

Unit Board Member Removal

Nancy S.

Bill Riley, a member of our Board of Directors, has exceeded the number of absences allowed by our bylaws and was removed from the Board. He was simply unable to attend due to ongoing difficulties caused by Hurricane Harvey. Bill has served on the board for the past five years and has made many contributions to Unit 174. He will be sorely missed by the Board of Directors, and we appreciate his service and contributions!!!

The next Board Meeting of 2018 will be held at Tracy Gee Community Center on Monday March 5, 2018 (at 9:30 am).

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Hudson for Lauri Laufman, Unit Secretary

