



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

February 6, 2023

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to Order

Kathleen McDougall

President Kathleen McDougall brought the meeting to order at 9:17 AM. Present at the meeting were Kathleen McDougall, Karen Nussbaum, Clif Rice, Greg May, Charles Dalton, Byron Fackenthall and Sarah Springer. Nancy Stohmer was also present, and Kenneth Hudson attended as a guest. Thomas Rush, John Dubose, Steve Gordon, and Betty Starzec were unable to attend.

Approval of Minutes

Sarah Springer

SS presented minutes from **January 9, 2023** which had previously been circulated via email to the Board. BF made a motion to approve the minutes, CR seconded, and all were in favor. **MINUTES APPROVED.**

Treasurer's Report

Steve Gordon

Although Treasurer SG was absent, there was discussion about finances. KN stated that the Marriott overcharged on some things. NS stated the bills always need to be reviewed as there have been errors in the past. Taxes were added to the bill even though the Unit is tax exempt. The 21% tip on food items is in the contract. **Action Item:** It was agreed that SG, CR and KM need to address the issues.

Technology

Greg May

No Report.

Procedure Manual

Clif Rice

CR has started working on approved changes to the Policies and Procedure Manual. In Section VI the tournament chairs need to update the LSR procedures—KM and KN.



District Update**Betty Starzec**

No report.

Club Connection**John DuBose**

As John DuBose was absent, the members present reviewed available dates to visit the Bryan/College Station Club. It was agreed that the Board will attend the March 31 game at the Star Duplicate Bridge Club in Bryan.

Club Manager Report**Greg May**

No report.

Supplies and Warehouse**Clif Rice**

CR reported that he spent \$150 on supplies at the tournament, and \$800 in new supplies have been ordered. He still needs to order continuation paper for the directors. He purchased 2000 pencils with erasers for the LSR; there were 1100 participants and 900 pencils are left. It was decided to purchase golf pencils in the future. CR asked for volunteers to store the two projectors; they need to be taken home from the April sectional. KN volunteered to take both.

KM volunteered to go with CR to the warehouse to retrieve the suggestion box which was stored prior to removal of the suggestions.

Committee Reports**Elections**

There is an ongoing issue of Board Members being scammed for money. Newly elected Board members need to be warned of the fraud issues and told that they will NEVER be requested to purchase gift cards.

Charity Report**Nancy Strohmer**

NS noted that \$2264 was given to the Houston Food Bank—they were very happy with the donation and there will be an article and picture in the newsletter.

I/N /Future Life Masters**Kathleen McDougall, Greg May**

The I/N turnout at the 2023 Regional was three times the turnout from 2022. The efforts of Sam Kayak, Cindy Cox, Betty Westbrook, and Joyce Ryan have resulted in this success. It was noted that great work is underway.



GM stated that there is positive movement ongoing with teaching and attracting new players, and stated that participation is up 50% as a whole in FLM and that F2F is really growing. There has been a Super World Class Effort for FLM.

Education

Kathy McDougall

KM stated there is lots of potential in our Unit for education, and the Boost program is going very well.

New Member Recruitment

Charles Dalton

KM stated that in recruiting and retaining new members we need a base of teachers and a place to send people to play. CD stated he needs help in how to contact companies to recruit retirees. NS recommended contacting ExxonMobil who has a very active bridge club; she volunteered to contact them by phone.

CD stated that Spring Branch has a very active teachers retirement group but he has not gotten any response from his contacts. BF mentioned that there are numerous church groups in the area, plus neighborhood communities.

CD stated that he has not been receiving the In and Out Reports. SS stated that she has emailed them to the Unit Board and filed them appropriately in Box. She will re-send to CD to ensure he has them.

Member Communication

Allison Ochsner and Evvie Gilbert

Jeanne Phelps is working with Evvie on the Newsletter. NS stated that Evvie is a dynamo and has been enormously helpful in straightening out issues with Robly, our marketing tool for member e-blasts.

NAP/GNT

Karen Nussbaum

No report.

Awards

Karen Nussbaum

No report.

April Election Sectional tournament

Charles Dalton and Clif Rice

CR has been working on the budget taking an average of the October and April budgets. The Ladies of the Nile are a possibility to do the coffee as a fund raiser for their charity. We have over-ordered food in the past. CD moved to approve the proposed budget; KN seconded and all were in favor.

To ensure that there is a quorum at the annual meeting, the board agreed to hold the meeting on Saturday rather than Sunday. NS **moved** that online voting take place from March 6, 2023 to April 11, 2023. CR seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Motion carried.**

Paul Nimmons will be the Election Judge.



Galveston Tournament

No report.

Lone Star Regional

Kathleen McDougall and Karen Nussbaum

The volunteer lunch was not well advertised resulting in a waste of the boxed lunches. SS suggested that coupons be issued to the volunteers with date, time and place to encourage attendance. Photos of the volunteers need to be made for the Bulletin.

KM and KN will email CR suggested changes for the policies and procedure manual related to the LSR. Procedures for handling the caddy tip jars should be included. The Marriott needs to be advised that we need a square table configuration for the District Breakfast.

Once again, the LSR lost money despite great attendance. We have a contract with the Marriott through 2025; they work well with us but there are still issues which the Board will address. Regardless, the Marriott is a good deal for the Unit.

KM stated that we need to start working on the 2024 LSR now. One thing to consider is not doing the Mini-Soloway in 2024. CR made a **Motion** that we not hold the Mini-Soloway in 2024; CD seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

CR noted that there were many errors in the Daily Bulletin. NS stated that the event naming needs to be conducted as in the past as it did not work well this year. The Chair was new and did not have adequate information on how to handle the naming—there needs to be information for the chair in the Policies and Procedure Manual. Brigitte Sandifer and Joyce Gore will be enormous help in this area and should be consulted with the Policies and Procedures guidelines regarding naming.

There was a detailed discussion of issues with the Daily Bulletin and all agreed the bulletin had issues. NS stated that Speedy Printing should still be considered for our digital bulletin as they do a great job. It was agreed that it was an excellent decision not to have printed copies of the Bulletin. Engaging the printer early on would be a good idea. NS offered to reach out to Speedy Printing about doing the daily digital bulletin for the 2024 LSR. The Board accepted NS's offer to contact Speedy.

There were problems with the microphones. David Littman was very helpful and brought his own speaker system in. **ACTION ITEM:** The sound people at the hotel need to be engaged **early**. We need to ask David Littman to serve as our Sound Person; he deserves recognition for his work at the 2023 LSR. Our microphones are old and we need two more speakers and two new microphones.

KM stated she has \$1160 in \$2 bills at her home.

There were numerous errors and omissions in the printed Directory. It will be reprinted and available at the Election Sectional. It went through two printings and there were still about 100 names missing.



GM noted that the Partnership Chair (Kenneth Hudson) did a great job. The teacher course had about 16 attendees and was very successful. The Hospitality Desk had complaints that there was not enough chocolate.

KH stated that the new seating at the Marriott was fantastic.

All agreed that the volunteers worked very hard to make the tournament a success.

Future Sectionals

KM raised the possibility of eliminating one of the summer sectionals. There is a contract in place with Shriners for the June and August tournaments. CD noted that Sunday attendance is low. NS stated that she gets input from District Presidents and the consensus is to run fewer tournaments at the present time. NS stated she is in favor of canceling this year's June tournament, as suggested by KM. The Regional used to carry us forward and cover losses at the Sectionals. Sundays at the Sectionals cost \$1500 for the rental and \$2800 for the meal.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by KM. NS seconded. All were in favor.

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Springer, Unit 174 Board Secretary

