



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

January 6, 2020

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to order

Lauri Laufman

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Directors in attendance: Cindy Cox, Nancy Guthrie, David Henke, Lauri Laufman, Jack LaVigne, Kathleen Malcolmson, Clif Rice, Nancy Strohmer and Sheryl Thomas. Others present: Gary Hercules-Treasurer, Betty Starzec, Kathleen McDougall.

Approval of Minutes

Kathleen Malcolmson

The meeting minutes were prepared and emailed to the Board.

Motion: That the November 2019 Minutes be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Nancy Strohmer, and approved unanimously.

Motion: That the December 2019 Minutes be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Nancy Strohmer, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

No report. End of year adjustments being made.



Marriott: Event sheets are not yet finalized. The Room Block sold out early as did the Overflow room block. Overflow hotels, Courtyard Marriott and Hilton, are in effect. Notice has gone out and the website updated with this information. A suggestion for the future is to put on the flyer “Room Block Cut-off [date] or until Sold Out”.

Special Events:

Tue: 0-5 Morning Game - free and supervised. Cookies served before 2:30 session.

299er Reception will be after the 2:30 session.

Thu: Volunteer Appreciation Day. Brownies served before 2:30 session. Reception after.

Fri: Teacher Appreciation Day.

Sat: D16 BOD Meeting (and breakfast); D16 Star Award Announcements at 2:20; After 2nd session - Aces & Knaves movie showing.

Advertising/Publicity: Requests sent to The Buzz, Chronicle and Leader to mention the LSR and/or Aces & Knaves. Still working on more visibility. Note for future that it could benefit the Board if volunteers were found to help with the Advertising effort in future years.

Daily Bulletin: Meeting with the publisher Jan. 15th. All that is possible to finalize in advance will be done.

Registration gifts: Gifts are covered.

Event Naming: Jack LaVigne reported that this has been completed.

Director’s Refresher Course: Eleven have requested reservations.

ACBL President: ACBL President Georgia Heath will not be able to attend.

Supplies: New rolling carts will be assembled. Teacher Appreciation banner is ready.

Aces & Knaves – There is an Aces & Knaves Facebook site. Please like and share. Betty Starzec mentioned that the Houston, Atlanta and Cincinnati Units are “Proof of Concept” units for the ACBL. The ACBL will be watching to see how this movie showing goes. She suggests that the Unit should have a Marketing Dept. to try new ideas to expand and grow Unit events such as this one.



District Breakfast: All preparations are ready. D16 Pres. Rebecca Brown and 1st VP Nancy Strohmer have been advised.

Teacher Appreciation Day: Two cakes and supplies to be secured and served Friday after the 2:30 session. Reimbursement from D16 will be requested. Hot dogs will also be served at this time.

Restaurant Guide: 500 copies of the Restaurant Guide will be printed. Sheryl Thomas was thanked for her work obtaining discounts from local restaurants.

Team Game Screens: Projector will be used. Data entry will be a big job at the LSR. Georgiana Gates was consulted and has volunteered to be in charge of Bridge Score Plus to help make the process efficient. Raspberry Pi portable computers will be used for data entry. Security at night for the equipment is an issue and will be addressed.

Speakers: After discussion, it has been decided to provide \$50 bills instead of gift cards as speaker gifts. Some speakers are from outside of Houston and cannot use the gift cards easily.

April 2020 Sectional

Clif Rice/Jack LaVigne

The flyer was proposed. Parking information may need to be added to the flyer at a later date. The Marriott is planning to charge for parking in 2020 but has not provided a firm start date. When available, the intention is to add the parking information to the flyer with the second printing.

Several other minor changes to the flyer were discussed and will be implemented.

Motion: To approve the flyer with modifications as discussed.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Nancy Strohmer and approved unanimously.

The Annual Meeting cannot take place unless there is a quorum. That will be roughly 175 members. To ensure a quorum 1) local clubs will be asked to attend, 2) there will be a special message from the Unit President on the Newsletter, 3) tournament attendees will be asked and reminded to attend the meeting prior to sessions.

New Member Recruitment / Retention

All

See I/N report below.



STaC**Sheryl Thomas**

There were 695 tables. \$3,242.05 was sent to the ACBL, resulting in a net of 930.00 for the Unit.

Action Item: Jack LaVigne will investigate why the ACBL does not score STaC across the field.

GNT**Clif Rice**

No report.

NAP**Clif Rice**

No report.

Committee Reports**Club Connection****Nancy Guthrie**

February 13th at Cypress Northwest Bridge Club. Play begins at noon, be there by 11:45.

Charity Report**Nancy Strohmer**

January 10th is the deadline for clubs to pay for December Charity Games.

A 1.5' x 3' dry erase check has been purchased for use during the presentations.

Directory**David Henke**

The compilation of names and phones numbers will be ready by Jan. 20th.

Binders: When should more be made and how many? Lauri Laufman will look into this. The goal is to have them ready for the April Sectional.

Education**Betty Starzec**

No report.

Intermediate/Newcomer (& New Member)**Cindy Cox**

I/N Ambassadors for the LSR are still needed. Please recruit at your clubs.

The Newcomer Host role is vitally important to ensure that new players will want to return to future tournaments.



All Board Members are expected to attend the I/N Reception following the Tuesday afternoon game. Signage will be ordered once the exact venue has been determined.

Supervised play for Tuesday and Saturday morning are staffed.

Election Sectional Student attendance should be about twenty on Friday morning. This will be updated after the LSR.

Recent Retiree Initiative is on hold until after the LSR.

Member Communications

Catherine Miller

Catherine is looking for a replacement for herself. Three have replied to her request. Please submit ideas to her. She will train her replacement.

Supplies

Clif Rice

No report.

Other

Bridge in Schools

Kathleen Malcolmson

No report.

Awards

Sheryl Thomas

No new Life Masters this month.

New Business

District 16 Update

Kathleen Malcolmson

No report.

Procedure Manual

Kathleen Malcolmson

To be emailed for review.

Tournament Contracts/Future

Lauri Laufman/Jack LaVigne

The Marriott Westchase plans to charge for parking in 2020. They have not been able to supply a reliable start date for this so it is unknown when this will begin. Free self-parking at the LSR for 2020 is assured. The Marriott has already agreed to provide a discounted rate to the attendees of the Unit's Sectionals in 2020. Actual parking rates are not yet firm.



Disciplinary Roles (ACBL Changes)

Lauri Laufman

The Disciplinary roles of the ACBL have been changed. The Unit Recorder and Disciplinary Chair are ended effective 1/1/2020. Bob Dowlen and Dan Leightman (posthumously) are thanked for their years of service. Jack LaVigne is serving as the District 16 Recorder. Sally Wheeler is volunteering as Assistant District Recorder.

The Buckingham DBC has been granted a sanction by the ACBL as an Invitational DBC. The Board welcomes this club to Unit 174 and wishes it much success.

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:28 a.m., exiting at 11:29 a.m.

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Nancy Strohmer; approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Board Meeting will be on Feb. 1st, 9:30 a.m. at the Westchase Marriott.

The March Board Meeting will be on the 2nd at 9:30 a.m. at the Tracy Gee Community Center

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Malcolmson, Unit 174 Secretary

