



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

January 8, 2023

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to Order

Karen Nussbaum

President Karen Nussbaum brought the meeting to order at 9:20 am. Board members present at the meeting were Charles Dalton, Dave Becker, John Eric Watson, Nile Gross, Sarah Springer, John Dubose, Thomas Rush, Karen Nussbaum and Steve Gordon. Also present were Betty Starzec and Hallie Eads. Vern Schmidt was present briefly but did not remain. Nancy Strohmer attended the latter part of the meeting. Not present were Paddy Fiorino and Antoun Henri.

Approval of minutes

Paddy Fiorino

SS moved that the minutes previously circulated via email to the board for the previous board meeting be approved. DB seconded the motion and **minutes for the December 4, 2023 meeting were APPROVED.**

Treasurer's Report

Steve Gordon

Steve Gordon stated that the 2023 annual accounting has been completed and submitted to the auditor. The Unit has an \$11,000 deficit for the year, largely due to the October tournament in Galveston

Club Manager Report

Greg May, Paddy Fiorino

KN presented an email summary from Greg May. His report:



As of Jan 2nd we have had the following table counts:

2024 3 (note that ACBL in late 2023 raised table rate to \$5 - initially we used \$3)
2023 190
2022 207
2021 171
571 Total tables to date

Technology

Karen Nussbaum

KN stated that she has had issues with bouncing emails. TR will address the problem.

Procedure Manual and Bylaws

Sarah Springer

SS will update the Procedure Manual to eliminate the section which allows a compensated room for the Head Caddy.

Club Connection

Sarah Springer

The next club connection game will be at the Lone Star Bridge Club in Conroe on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 10:30.

October Sectional

Karen Nussbaum

KN discussed her efforts to line up the October tournament in the Woodlands but the room rate was too high. DB stated that the Intercontinental Hotel at the Airport is still interested in hosting the tournament. DB volunteered to renegotiate with the Woodlands and also look into Galveston as well. It was agreed that the reservation with the magician will be cancelled. DB will report back on his findings.

Resignation of Antoun Henri

Karen Nussbaum

KN announced that Antoun Henri has resigned from the Board for health reasons. KN contacted Board members prior to the meeting about Hallie Edes being appointed to fulfil his term. All were in favor of KN's appointment of Hallie Edes to the Board.

Shriners Contracts

Karen Nussbaum

Contracts with Shriners have been completed through 2024. DB will meet with the Shriners Manager for 2025 plans.

Lone Star Regional

Karen Nussbaum



DB stated that he has completed the preliminary budget and it looks like we will make \$1800.00. Reservations at the Marriott already exceed our room commitment, and the food and beverage minimums have been exceeded. He will finalize the budget tomorrow after looking into specials and sales at the hotel.

Increasing the table fees was brought up by SS, but the consensus was that any increases need to take place next year as the flyer with the current rates has been out for a considerable period.

KN reported that a group of 32 middle school students will attend the tournament on Friday. She was working on a gift for them. The students will play for free and they are invited to the hotdog lunch at no cost to them. It was agreed that we should give them the FLM packets which include a convention card holder, a Byron Barclay catalog, and an Audrey Grant magazine. JW will work on a Chick-Fil-A coupon to include in the goodie bag.

There will be six vendors at the tournament. Snacks will be provided at 9:00 AM each morning which will be helpful as sign-up times need to start earlier as we will not have Entry Express.

SG will be doing the daily bulletin. The first day's bulletin will go out by Robly, then each registrant will get a daily email of the bulletin. It was discussed that SG needs to get the naming information from Jane Armstrong and send it to ACBL to be sure the honorees are in the bulletin each reserved day. The hospitality offerings, speakers, and lunch menus will also be in the daily bulletin. Mike Levine, one of the honorees, has been elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame.

SS reported that another person has reached out about the Best Practices course. DB and KN stated they would sign up as well, so the minimum attendance for the course to make has been met. SS will contact ACBL about sending the course materials to the Marriott with attention to DB.

Volunteer Day will be Thursday and there will be box lunches from Jason's Deli. Thursday at 2:20 after the day's speaker finishes will be the Charity Award, with a check from the Unit presented to the Houston Food Bank. NS requested that the "big check" be there for the presentation. The Teacher of the Year presentation will be on Friday and Saturday will be the Star and Goodwill awards. JD stated that he will be requesting everything from the storage units to be delivered to the Marriott.

TR made a motion that we not use the red trashcans, NG seconded, and the motion carried. The trashcans will be delivered and then disposed of. DB will request that the Marriott provide more large bins in the playing area.

SG discussed the amount of \$2 bills for prizes and cash for caddies and tips at the tournament. He will purchase \$1100's worth of \$2 bills and get \$3500-\$4000 in 10's, 20's and \$50's. Caddies' names and SS#'s will be obtained in the event they will be issued a



1099 at the end of the year. DB will call Sheryl Thomas re the caddies. It was suggested that a safety deposit box be obtained from the Marriott for the safekeeping of the cash.

BS mentioned that she had reached the end of her term as District President and would not be attending future Board meetings. She mentioned that the District pays for the breakfast and two cakes. SG stated he would prefer for the Unit to make the purchases and then be reimbursed rather than using offsets for what the Unit pays to the District.

More volunteers are needed to help with the tournament. All candidates for office should be volunteering. BS volunteered to sell books/other items we obtain from Byron Barclay. JW will contact other club managers about making announcements for volunteers.

Setup will be on Sunday. Volunteers are needed on Sunday beginning at 10:00 AM for the setup and on the Sunday ending the tournament for the break down. JD will plan on the delivery taking place on Friday and the pickup taking place on Monday following the tournament.

JD has been working on 10% discounts at restaurants in the area of the Marriott.

Election Sectional

Charles Dalton

Paul Nimmons is the Election Judge. SS is the Director in charge of the election. CD is working with Betty Westbrook to have the flyer available for distribution at the LSR.

HE reported six candidates are running for the Board: Maria Louisa Turner, Leslie Kellet, Linda McReynolds, James Sells, Dave Becker, and Marty Hrachovy.

Charity Report

Nancy Strohmer

NS stated that the dates of the charity games have been changed to March 11, 12, 14 and 15 to avoid a conflict with the Spring NABC. TR made a motion to approve the change; JW seconded and the motion carried.

TR stated that 3/11 is the ACBL-wide Senior Pairs Event which would conflict with the new Charity Game date. NS stated she can change the date of the charity game to allow clubs to host the Senior Pairs Event.

Next meeting

Karen Nussbaum

The next board meeting will be January 29, 2024 as KN and a few others were unavailable for the previously planned meeting in February.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by DB. NG seconded. All were in favor.

Motion carried



The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paddy Fiorino, Unit 174 Board Secretary

By: Sarah Springer, Acting Secretary

