



## Memorandum of Discussion

### ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Houston Bridge Studio

#### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm. Present were Pat Levy, President, Paul Cuneo, Vice-President, John Erickson, Secretary, Joyce Ryan, Karen Nimmons, Robert Reichek and Lauri Laufman.

Also present for part of the meeting was Jim Woodward – Treasurer.

#### Minutes of June Board Meeting

The minutes of the June meeting were approved by on-line poll.

#### Treasurer's Report

Jim submitted financial reports dated February 8, 2009, June 1, 2009, and July 5, 2009. The February report had been previously approved, but was resubmitted due to a page being missing from the original submission. The June report was late as Jim was out of town during the June Board meeting. Jim noted that while the Unit received \$51,000 from the NABC Committee following the completion of the NABC tournament, we had sent the committee \$57,000 over the past few years.

Jim stated that approximately \$90,000 in CD's will be maturing in a few days, and will be in need of reinvestment. After some discussion, it was decided that approximately half should be reinvested for six months and the other half for one year.

**Motion: To allow Jim to reinvest half of the maturing funds for an approximate six month period and the other half for approximately one year.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

Jim filed form 990 with the IRS and property tax forms with Harris County. He also is inquiring if files which are now stored on box.net can be backed up. Paul will inquire.

**Motion: To approve the February, June and July financial reports.**

The motion was seconded and approved.



## Committee Reports

### Bridge in Schools

**Pat**

Brigitte Sandifer has been appointed the new coordinator. Natalie Wernet wants to continue teaching, but at a reduced frequency.

### Member Communications Committee

**John**

Betty Freedman submitted a report showing that attempts were made to contact 44 members. John will ask Betty if she has an idea of how many members were retained during the past year due to the committee's efforts.

### Membership

**John**

Unit membership totals 2,452 as of July 1, unchanged from the previous month.

### I/N, Education & Book Sales

**Joyce**

A total of 13 books were sold.

June Sectional: I/N had a very good turnout. Suggestion by an open field player that 299'ers be added into the open game when turnout there is low. This is not a good idea. When the beginner games are diminished by putting those players into the open game, it tends to kill the novice game.

### NAP/GNT

**John**

*NAP*

Discussions were held about hiring a director for the Unit finals in November, and John will pursue.

*GNT*

Brett Elliott, Harry Elliott, Byron Elliott, Robert Reichel and Herbert Kalman, who won the District Flight C competition held in Richardson over the Memorial Day weekend, will be sent \$200 checks to offset their expenses to compete in the national final at the Washington D.C. NABC this summer.

### Tournament Coordination

**Paul**

The 2010 Unit calendar should be ready by the August meeting.

### Nominating Committee Chairman

**Pat**

Dianna Gittelman has agreed to serve in this function.

### Publicity Chairman

**Pat**

As Dianna has vacated this position, we are searching for a replacement.



## Old Business

### May Sectional

Bob/Lauri

With attendance down about 12% from last year, we sustained a loss of about \$2,400.

### June Sectional

Karen/John

Attendance was 530 tables, the most for a June tournament since 1992. Final financial numbers should be available by the August meeting.

### August Sectional

Paul

Paul distributed about 70 flyers for the Sectional at the recently completed San Antonio Regional.

### Programs for Clubs

Joyce

Programs for clubs: The BOD passed 5 new I/N subsidy programs for clubs in September 2008. This is an update:

Free plays for new players completing a series of lessons. NO CLUBS USING.

0-20 game subsidy (retroactively applied to HBS). NO CLUBS USING.

Quarterly mailing subsidy to promote I/N games. NO CLUBS USING.

Subsidy for graduation games. NO CLUBS USING.

Subsidy for advanced players to review hands after I/N game. CLEAR LAKE USING.

### Bridge Bites

Pat

The Houston Press has agreed to begin including the "Bridge Bites" columns provided by the ACBL. Gary King's name will be listed as a contact for those readers interested in learning more.

### Use of Funds Received from NABC Committee Report

Robert

Several ideas for use of these funds were discussed:

1) Reduced session cost at a future Sectional tournament.

**Motion: Reduce the entry fee to \$5 on Friday afternoon at the October Sectional in Humble.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

2) The Unit would subsidize advertising cost in local media for I/N activities.

3) The Unit would share the cost of a part time coordinator for I/N programs.

4) Subsidize the cost of a one-time bridge class/event (i.e. Wold/Morris or Gary King).

Jim Woodward had several comments on these and other suggestions. Another idea was to reimburse clubs for ACBL STAC costs, so that entry fees will not increase. Also mentioned were increasing amenities at tournaments and reimbursing clubs for lost revenue during Unit tournaments. Consideration of these and other ideas was deferred to future Board meetings.



## New Business

### Lodging Costs for Paul Cuneo

Paul is planning to attend the Tournament Managers Seminar during the Washington D.C. NABC later this month.

**Motion: To reimburse Paul for one night's hotel costs at the host hotel rate.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

### Sectional Tournament Sites

**John**

As we do not yet have a confirmed site for the April (Election) Sectional, John will contact the Stafford Centre for possibilities. He will also remain in touch with the Shriner's to determine when they will be able to begin renting their ballroom in 2010.

A down payment has been made to secure the Stafford Centre for the June 2010 Sectional. Thus, the Board discussed when to hold the next tournament in Bryan.

**Motion: To hold the June 2011 tournament in Bryan.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

### 2010 Lone Star Regional

**Paul**

The following functions have been filled: Partnerships – Jolie Hess, Hospitality – Jane Armstrong, Guest Speakers – Dianna Gittelman, Event Naming – Marsha Bernstein, Daily Bulletin – Donna Compton. The final budget will be presented at the September Board meeting.

### October Sectional

**Paul**

Paul prepared a preliminary budget for the Humble sectional, projecting a \$500 profit. A few minor adjustments were discussed.

**Motion: to approve the budget for the October Sectional.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

### I/N Subsidy Program for Clubs

**Joyce**

Discussion was held about the Quarterly mailing subsidy for clubs desiring to send mail to I/N players about I/N games. As it is now written, only clubs receiving the 75% subsidy from the ACBL are eligible for this subsidy.

**Motion: To remove the 75% ACBL subsidy requirement to be eligible for this subsidy.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

### Social Bridge

The next event may be held at either a north side location or at a more central Houston location. It is not likely that it will be held before next spring.

### Adjourn

**Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.**



The motion was seconded and approved at 9:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Erickson

Secretary

