



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

March 5, 2018

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to order

Nancy S.

Nancy Strohmer called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Directors in attendance: Nancy Strohmer, Ken Hudson, Nancy Guthrie, David Henke and Daniel Jackson, Dianna Gittelman, John Caudill and Lauri Laufman. Also present, Treasurer Gary Hercules and Kathleen Malcolmson.

Approval of minutes

Lauri

The February meeting minutes were prepared and emailed to the Board

Motion – That the February Minutes be approved as corrected.

The motion was made by David, seconded by John and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

Gary

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

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

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

Comments from the Treasurer and discussion items were:

- 1) Since the unit is in very good standing at this point, the board may wish to consider looking into the condition of our current supply cabinets.
- 2) The December statements will be amended based on some items that came in after the fact and those changes will carry forward accordingly.



Old Business

2018 LSR

Ken

Ken reported that we currently are showing a net income of ~\$63,000 (up 18,000-20,000 from last year). This is attributed to both the increased table count, entry fee and by providing \$10 vouchers for the Sunday meal instead of a served meal.

With regard to the Sunday meal, the Marriott credited us \$2500 as a result of the situation created by their not having enough food available or in a timely manner during the latter of the staggered lunch breaks.

Nancy shared our updated Marriott LSR floor plans and thanked Daniel for redrawing and bringing them up to date.

During the LSR, Mike Passell suggested we consider reducing the # of boards played during pair games. Further discussion revealed that the directors also support this and that many other districts have already reduced their tournament sessions to 24 boards.

Motion – At future U174 tournaments, 24 boards will be played during pair game sessions.

The motion was made by Dianna, seconded by David and approved by all.

Election Sectional

Lauri and Nancy G

0-5 Game: The co-chairs are happy to report that Joyce Ryan has agreed to run the 0-5 game on Friday morning in a similar manner to at the LSR. During our conference call with Joyce, we discussed targeting social bridge players in addition to new players and ways to promote it. Nancy G will be developing a “blurb” in hopes that our full service clubs will share with their members via an e-blast asking their players to reach out to those they play within social settings outside of ACBL duplicate games to give duplicate a try at our upcoming sectional.

It was decided not to use the Richmond Room for the 0-5 and other 299er pair games due to proximity, cost and lack of sufficient bridge pad receivers. In addition, both Kevin Perkins (director in charge) and Joyce Ryan felt like the layout of the grand pavilion will allow an area sufficient for having this game in there.

Event Naming: The chairs decided not to initiate event naming at this sectional which already includes elections, awards, an annual meeting, the GNT and a 0-5 event. It was also felt that unlike the LSR, at sectionals we do not have daily bulletins or any of the other things available to make the event naming as special. After further discussion, we recommend the new board consider testing this out at the August Sectional if interested in pursuing any further.

John C is working on the caddies for the event; he will also make sure the GNT is



covered as needed.

Nearly Summer Sectional ("The Big Switcheroo")

Daniel

Daniel announced Bill Riley as Partnership Chair and Sam Khayatt as Hospitality Chair. Although John C will no longer be on the board when this sectional occurs, he has agreed to take care of confirming caddy needs are in order. Daniel then asked Nancy G to assist him with finding someone to help with I/N.

By way of speakers, Daniel Jackson will be one of the speakers. The other one is to be determined at a later date as is his co-chair.

New Member Recruitment / Retention

All

Although there was no formal report, it was noted that the 0-5 game at the upcoming Election Sectional and outreach surrounding the event should stimulate both new members as well as help with retention.

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

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

I/N

No report to review at this meeting.

STaC Week

John

The next STaC is October 15-21 and Scott Humphreys is the D.I.C. (director in charge).

NAP Unit Qualifiers

John/David

This year qualifiers will take place November 10-11, 2018 at BCOH with Melody Euler the D.I.C. B qualifiers will be on Saturday; A and C on Sunday. Daniel is securing the sanction.

GNT 2017/2018

John/David

John is waiting on the qualifier lists from the 3 clubs that held them for Flights B and C so he can provide to the district. District GNT qualifiers are May 4-6 in Houston.

No dates for Unit qualifiers for GNT 2018/2019 have been announced nor will be until after the next District 16 meeting as they will set up the rules of contest first.



Unit Charity /Championship Games**Daniel**

All 24 dates have been scheduled including charity week. Most of the individual dates are on Wednesday and Fridays when the majority of the unit games occur. The schedule has been sent to our webmaster.

The recipient (non-profit organization) of the proceeds from our unit charity games will be selected by the 2018-2019 board of directors.

Regional at Sea**Nancy S**

At the last District 16 meeting, Nancy brought to the attention of both the District as well as ACBL (Pres Jay Whipple was in attendance) that these events create a conflict of interest by way of decreasing attendance and loss of revenue. The numbers presented supported this and Paul Cuneo requested remuneration for the loss of revenue from the ACBL.

Grand Life Master Awards**Dianna**

Dianna presented a photo of the award along with a mock up which was approved with one change. Dianna was thanked by all for her time and excellent award selection.

ABA/ ACBL Pairs Championship Game**John**

Event is April 7 at Tracy Gee and Brigitte Sandifer is the director. Brigitte suggested the board might like to consider a club like WBA for 2019 – Nancy S. has been requested to discuss the requirements of the event with WBA to see if it is feasible to have the event at that location.

AED**John**

John presented updated information for the board consideration regarding legal liability to the unit and a letter from the club manager at BCOH describing how they now have both a defibrillator and partnered with EMS to offer discounted training on learning how to operate one.

Discussion followed. While no decision was made at this time, the board is exploring options based on the information presented.

Open vs Invitational Games**David**

Nancy S has been requested to visit with open clubs that may not fit the ACBL criteria to be designated as open so that they can work with the ACBL to figure out what designation best matches or how to adjust accordingly.

Unit Newsletter Editor**Nancy S**

Nancy S reminded the board to please actively help find a replacement for Carol Wilson. She will continue as our Scorecard Editor but really wants to retire from being the Newsletter Editor.



Life Master Plaques

Dianna

Dianna wanted to make sure everyone was aware that the award company can only provide plaques after the official monthly In-and-Out report comes out with the new rankings including that of newly awarded life masters. And this takes time. Clubs planning LM celebrations very close to when the list comes out should not expect a timely presentation of the plaques.

Fall Sectional

Nancy S

Dianna is planning on going over to check out the Hyatt (previously the Sofitel) up near the Beltway and I-45N by IAH to see if this location might be suitable for this Sectional. If so, she will look into rates and date availability.

Currently we have a hold on dates at the Marriott Westchase the last weekend in October if an alternate location does not work out.

Supplies – Cleaning Card Tables

Nancy S

Nancy suggested we consider cleaning our playing tables. After discussion, it was decided the unit get a quote to clean our tables at the upcoming sectional from the Marriott.

USBF Open Team Trials

Nancy S

The event will take place May 11-20 at the Marriott and was last held in Houston back in 2005. Approximately 100 players will be participating in the Houston trials for the Bermuda Bowl - many of them will be the top ACBL players.

There is currently a need for volunteers with Shawn Quinn, Betty Starzec and Nancy Strohmer in charge of organizing the volunteers and aspects relating to shifts and duties.

Volunteers are needed to help run the hospitality suite and help run the Vugraph operations. Hospitality volunteers are needed daily and you can assist in shifts in the morning or afternoon. For the Vugraph operations, you need basic knowledge of BBO (training will be provided).

The event is more intimate with games taking place in individual rooms. Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and snacks will all take place in the hospitality room.

Chris & Donna Compton and Gary King

Nancy S



Chris, Donna and Gary have an event May 1-6 and have requested to use 25 tables and bidding boxes from Unit 174. After discussion, it was agreed that they could borrow our supplies providing that they take care of any shipping/delivery charges incurred getting them to their venue and back to our storage unit.

Executive Session

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

The Board spent 11 minutes in Executive Session.

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

Unit Board Member Replacement

Nancy S.

With Bill Riley no longer on the board, an open board position has been created. He had another year on his term.

Motion: To appoint Betty Starzec to fill the open board position for the rest of the term associated with this position.

The motion was made by Lauri, seconded by John and approved by all.

The next Board Meeting of 2018 will be held at Tracy Gee Community Center on Monday April 2, 2018 (at 9:30 am).

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 11:18 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Laufman, Unit Secretary

