



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

March 2, 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, David Henke, Lauri Laufman, Jack LaVigne, Kathleen Malcolmson, Clif Rice and Sheryl Thomas. Others present: Gary Hercules-Treasurer, and Betty Starzec.

Approval of Minutes

Kathleen Malcolmson

The minutes were prepared and emailed to the Board.

Motion: That the December 2019 Minutes be approved.

The motion was made by Cindy Cox, seconded by Jack LaVigne, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

The December 2019 Financial Statements were verified and emailed to the Board.

All but one tournament had positive income for 2019. Galveston in October lost about \$1600, but was budgeted to lose \$7000. Unit 174 had a net income of \$36,558.41 for 2019.

There was discussion about how the bank balance ended somewhat higher than planned for the year. Turnout for the year was better than expected. Galveston was predicted to have a bigger loss. Sectionals were expected to have losses. The Regional provided most of the income. That trend appears to have changed a little bit.

It was agreed that the coming year will have some challenges. Impending parking fees,



the probability of increased venue costs and the possibility that the COVID-19 virus may cause tournament cancellation(s) are reasons to be cautious with the Unit's funds this year.

Motion: That the February 2020 Financial Statements be approved.

The motion was made by Jack LaVigne, seconded by Cindy Cox, and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Lone Star Regional 2020

Lauri Laufman/Jack LaVigne

Bottom Line: Income of \$59-60K resulted from the LSR. Vendors were pleased with their income from the LSR this year.

Comments: Feedback was organized and presented to the Board in written form that was relevant to the Regional itself and tournaments in general.

Marriott: Invoice has not yet been received.

Special Events:

There were two 0-5 games, one with five tables and one with three tables.

The I/N Reception was very well received. The mix of teachers, board members and I/N players made for an enjoyable event for all.

Volunteer Reception - Not quite enough food or time for this event. Recommendation, if the event is continued in the future, schedule after the second session game with appetizers and more easily portioned food.

The Aces & Knives movie had about 130 attendees. The Educational Foundation will not be having another showing.

Registration Gifts: Recommend smaller gifts for future Regionals and to return to providing 1000 items instead of this year's 1200. The pencils were well received. Be sure that they arrive sharpened ahead of tournament set-up.

Candy: Quantity was not an issue, but freshness and quality was. There were many complaints about stale and holiday-oriented chocolates. The candy wholesale supplier used will be given this feedback. Perhaps another supplier should be found.

Daily Bulletin: A few typos were corrected for the online edition. If caught early, the hardcopy edition was re-printed.



Event Naming: A couple of typos were not caught. It is recommended that event naming is proofed two weeks prior to the tournament.

Director's Refresher Course: 32 attended. It went very smoothly.

Restaurant Guide: Thank You cards have been sent by Sheryl Thomas to the restaurants that donated gift cards for the LSR. Recommend printing fewer copies and keeping them stored under table to replenish as needed.

Floor Plan: Based on attendance, it proved an excellent plan. However, there was a bottleneck between the bookseller and the Pavilion entry. This should be eradicated for future Regionals. Bookseller should be allowed leeway, as he is a benefit to the Regional. Keeping the tables away from the door and bookseller space would be preferred.

Bridge Score+ Screens/Keying: Jack and his committee are working to evaluate and improve. Possibly use caddies or directors to key in data.

Set Up: Worked well considering the Saturday noon timing. Would have worked more smoothly if the Marriott had all the tables in position before start of set-up.

Other Areas to Consider for possible Improvement:

-Faster results to Awards desk.

-Mini-Soloway – better planning of Day 1 games, possible pre-registration, edit Conditions of Contest to pre-determine how to run Day 1 based on the number of teams entered, offer alternate event for top teams not wanting to participate, or stagger instead with 3-session KOs instead of Mini-Soloway.

-Team Game Entries – There were three incidents that should be evaluated to find ways to improve. 1) Team entry simply stated “Top” without entering MPs, resulting in a top team being pushed down, of which they didn't want. Should allow for increasing size of top bracket. 2) Team of 5 was keyed in as 4, in error, by the director, affecting several brackets adversely. 3) Determine how to better allocate bottom bracketing. Perhaps handicapping will solve this. Leaving as-is also an option. 4) Lectures sometimes overlapped with play. Perhaps adding 30 minutes to lunch break would solve this.

-Monday start time - too early for some of the pros traveling that day. Changing the start time to 2 or 2:30 pm is a possibility.

-Trash cans - Retire the small table trash cans to decrease the possible spread of germs and open up the floor between tables.

Lauri Laufman, Jack LaVigne and 130 volunteers are thanked for making this another successful Regional.



April 2020 Sectional**Clif Rice/Jack LaVigne**

Meeting with Marriott tomorrow to firm up issues such as breakfast chit dispersement. The room block is already sold out.

For breakfast chits, two tables will be set up to sign in meeting attendees and hand out chits. Volunteers will be needed for this as Board Members will be on stage for the meeting. Betty Starzec will be leading this volunteer effort. Chits are valued at up to \$11 and expire at 9 am.

Directors are lined up on Tourney Trax. Clif working with Bill Robertson. Flyer is an earlier version on Tourney Trax. It will be updated.

Rob Burrige has been confirmed that he will bring 24 students on Friday. Rob will give Cindy Cox the names of the students so that she may fill out their ACBL membership applications in advance.

Regarding the movers, Clif suggests that 15 minutes could be cut off each Pack-N-Send invoice by supplying a key directly to Pack-N-Send so that they don't have to pick one up on the way to the storage space. The business owner will be consulted about this possibility.

June 2020 Sectional**Cindy Cox**

All three Chairs have committed, Greg May for Hospitality, Ken Hudson for Partnership and B Haznedar for I/N.

It is recommended to budget this tournament conservatively. Table count will be estimated for 600. Fee structure will be \$10/\$10/\$10. There will be no lunch. Game times still to be determined. \$1 chit will be given out Friday and Saturday mornings.

The visors that were not given away at the Regional will be passed out at the June tournament.

New Member Recruitment / Retention**All**

The Clear Lake Bridge Club will participate in this year's I/N Social Bridge event if the Unit will be having one. The Unit will promote this event.

Note - Discussion of subsidies for this event will be at the April BOD meeting.

STaC**Sheryl Thomas**

No report.



GNT**Clif Rice**

District Coordinator has been changed to Scott Nason. The flyer currently has BJ as the Coordinator.

NAP**Clif Rice**

No report.

Committee Reports**Club Connection****Nancy Guthrie (absent)**

The Cypress Northwest Bridge Club Connection went well. Thanks goes out to Nancy Guthrie.

Charity Report**Nancy Strohmer (absent)**

No report.

Directory**David Henke**

Clif Rice has been distributing the Directories to local clubs. Outlying clubs can pick them up at the Election Sectional. Some of the outlying clubs will be contacted to determine how they would like to get the Directories.

Education**Betty Starzec**

Jacob Morgan and Mike Passell are on the list of speakers for the 2021 Regional. D16 will be asked for funds to have the Best Practices course at the LSR.

It was presented that the Unit can provide funds for an educational event at an upcoming Sectional.

Add Joe Quinn to the List of Speakers, Regional and Sectional.

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

There were 52 First Timers attending the Regional which exceeded expectations. There were 3 significant factors that contributed to that. 1) One family in particular contributed to the success of the Tuesday game. 2) 0-5 game supervisors were appreciated. Dave Glandorf and Julie Halperin promoted the event to their classes. Barbara Phillips stepped in at the last minute for Julie, who couldn't attend. 3) The biggest influence was the Bring-A-Buddy program. People asked their neighbors to attend, etc.

I/N Ambassadors are helpful but may not be critical to increasing attendance. Parking fees may make it more difficult to recruit these volunteers.



Nancy Guthrie has agreed to be involved in the Recent Retiree Initiative, which will be getting under way soon.

Member Communications

Catherine Miller/Lauri Laufman

Jeanne Phelps has been appointed at Catherine Miller's request.

Appointments

Lauri Laufman

There were several positions recently opened as position-holders resigned or took on new roles in Unit 174. Unit President, Lauri Laufman, added these three appointments to the one in Member Communications.

Chuck Gillis is appointed to be the Unit 174 Attorney. Buddy Hanby has resigned.

Ann Sinclair is appointed to compose the Events and Classes Newsletter after Lauri steps down, sometime in the future.

Barbara LaVigne is appointed to be the Scorecard Editor. Carol Wilson has resigned.

Website and Information

Carol Winograd

No report.

Supplies

Clif Rice

No report.

Awards

Sheryl Thomas

Joni Holton, Nancy Shomette and Jay Evert are new Life Masters. Their plaques will be handed to them by Sheryl at their Life Master Party.

Mini-McKenney pins will be ordered by the President, Lauri.

New Business

District 16 Update

Kathleen Malcolmson

District meeting was held at the LSR. A Draft copy of the Minutes will be distributed to the Board after the meeting. When the final version is ready, it will be posted on the District 16 website.

Procedure Manual

Kathleen Malcolmson

The Manual was sent out for review.

Motion: That the Procedure Manual be approved.



The motion was made by Jack LaVigne, seconded by Sheryl Thomas, and approved unanimously.

Tournament Contracts/Future

Lauri Laufman/Jack LaVigne

October 15-17, 2021 does not have a site yet.

Bridge Score+ was discussed and determined to be going forward. About a \$400 investment will be needed to continue this project. The equipment purchased will be able to be transferred to any new system as yet to be determined by ACBL. A screen, projector stand and orange cones will be purchased. Also, Ms. Alex Samuels will be hired at caddy pay to do score/data entry into the system.

At Jack LaVigne's request, Paul Cuneo stopped by and spoke regarding ACBL's upcoming plans relating to Bridge Score+. --
Live for Clubs is being rolled out as a replacement for ACBL Score+. Score+ may not have a roll in tournaments in the future. Further investment in Score+ is not recommended. Until another solution is determined, Score+ use should be continued. Directors should be trained to enter the scores instead of having caddies or others enter. Supplies purchased for Score+ should be transferable to any new system that will be put in place.

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:20 a.m., exiting at 11:38 a.m.

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was made by Kathleen Malcolmson, seconded by Lauri Laufman; approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next Board Meeting will be April 6th at 6:30 pm at Westside Bridge Academy.

The May Board Meeting will be on the 4th at 9:30 a.m. at Tracy Gee Community Center

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Malcolmson, Unit 174 Secretary

