



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

March 7, 2022

Tracy Gee's Community Center

Call to Order

Karen Nussbaum

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by President Karen Nussbaum. Directors in attendance: Karen Nussbaum, Kathleen McDougall, Greg May, Thomas Rush, Charles Dalton, Clif Rice, Joyce Gore, and Lauri Laufman. Also present were Nancy Strohmer and Betty Starzec, as well as Treasurer Dave Becker via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

Clif Rice

JG made a **motion** to approve the January minutes which had been distributed via email by CR. KM seconded the motion and all were in favor. Minutes from the January meeting stand approved.

Minutes from the 2019, 2020, and 2021 Annual Meetings will need to be approved at the 2022 Annual Meeting in April 2022. The minutes are posted on the website so members will have an opportunity to review them prior to voting to approve them. Paper copies of the minutes and proposed bylaw changes can be available at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Becker

DB stated that January financials have not yet been reviewed by the Verifier; DB will forward the financials to the Board for review and comment. December financials are finished. All of the expenses from the January 2022 Regional are not yet in, DB anticipates a loss of between \$38,000 to \$39,000 but is still negotiating and his goal is to reduce the loss to \$35,000. The storage unit has been pre-paid for the year, avoiding a rent increase and receiving one month free. DB has bids from banks to deposit our excess cash. April 1 is the date to transfer the money as we are opening a new bank account, the bank is offering a money market account which pays 3.5 to 4% interest



instead of the .0002 we are currently getting. There is no penalty for withdrawals and no management fees. DB stated he needs a number for how many \$2 bills to order as there is a three-week lag-time.

Awards

Joyce Gore

No report on STAC. The District 16 GNT finals will be on BBO May 28-30 with no qualifying required. JG is ordering awards for the Mini McKinney winners. KN has the certificates for Ace of Clubs winners. For the four new life masters, JG went to BCOH and Clear Lake Clubs to recognize the winners in person. Everyone was pleased to have this done face to face.

Discussion ensued about the Unit subsidizing NAP qualifiers to add to the District subsidies. LL made a **motion** for the Unit to subsidize with \$100 each Unit 174 member who represents our unit in person at the NAP tournament upon their completion of the tournament. NS seconded the motion and all were in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Action Item: The policies and procedures manual needs to be updated with the most recent subsidies for NAP and GNT participants from our Unit.

Old Business

Technology

Greg May

GM stated that Box is fine as are the unit emails. The sound system at Shriners is better than at the Marriott and it will be tested at setup for the April Sectional.

Procedure Manual

Lauri Laufman

Two bylaw changes will be voted on at the annual meeting. A quorum of 7% of the membership is required.

District Update

Lauri Laufman

BS stated that she is sending an email to our District representative recommending an increase in the stipend for the Editor of the Scorecard from \$500 to \$750. All agreed that she is doing an excellent job. LL made a **motion** that our Unit support the increase in the stipend for the Scorecard Editor from \$500 to \$750. All were in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

KN stated that a new representative needs to be appointed to represent our Unit in the District. DB nominated KN. KN called for other nominations, none were received. Nominations closed and the Board by acclamation approved KN's appointment as our Unit's representative to District 16.



DB mentioned that LL should be thanked for doing a great job representing us and stated how much everyone appreciates her service. All present were in agreement.

Club Connection

Thomas Rush

No report.

Club Manager Report

Greg May

There have been 201 tables in the 0-20 game, with four tables a week on average. People from Austin and Denton have been participating in addition to players from our area; they met in person at the Regional and it is remarkable to see the friendships forming among these players.

Tournament Contracts/ Future Sites

Dave Becker

Discussion turned to the most recent sectionals, all of which have done poorly. TR stated that he has all the vaccination lists. JG stated Apple updates its list. It was noted that the lists need to be consolidated prior to the April tournament. Wristbands will be required; DB will order 500 wristbands. NS commented that attendance is 38-40% of prior levels when masks are required; about double that if masks are not required. KN stated that the ACBL is no longer requiring masks so they will not be required at the upcoming tournament but vaccinations continue to be required.

DB is going to Shriners and Moody Gardens regarding the contracts for our tournaments. October 2022 will be at Shriners; October 2023 at Moody Gardens. The 2023 October Sectional will also be an IN/NLM Regional tournament, awarding red and gold points for IN/NLM participants.

Election Sectional

Thomas Rush

KN noted that voting for the new Board starts March 14 on line and the Webmasters need to be informed.

KN moved discussion to box lunches for the Sectional as there are few dining establishments near the Shriners' location. DB made motion to change the start time of the afternoon session to allow time for lunch. LL seconded. All were in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Flyer will be updated.

Demeris BBQ will cater lunch on Sunday.

KN moved to discussion of the approval of the budget for the Sectional. It was decided that KM and DB would get together and complete the budget and it would be taken up at an ad hoc meeting to be called by KN and conducted on Zoom. The April 4 BOD meeting will be moved to the 11th immediately following the April Sectional tournament.



There will be a Covid desk in the lobby of Shriners. TR will compile the vaccination list. JG will be asked to man the desk and others from the BOD will assist.

Carolyn Weidel will be asked to set up a table in the lobby for her wares. She gave a much appreciated donation to the Unit following the Regional.

Committee Reports

Charity Report

Nancy Strohmer

NS stated that proceeds of Charity games will go to the Houston Food Bank. Local clubs are participating; NS will get list of clubs and send the information to DB to make sure they pay the charity portions of the table fees so that the HFB can receive the money raised at the games.

I/N /Future Life Masters

Kathy McDougall/ Greg May

No Report.

Education

Kathy McDougall

No Report.

New Member Recruitment

Charles Dalton

CD reported that he is recruiting people to help him and is having difficulty with the NW Quadrant of the Unit. Clear Lake is working well.

KM pointed out that marketing is required for us to attract new players. CR suggested contacting Donna Compton in Dallas as their newcomer games are huge. JG pointed out that there are educational packets and other resources for new players in Box. BS discussed the "Learn Bridge in a Day" program and noted that the District will subsidize such programs. There are also subsidies for teachers and for clubs with respect to beginner games, and subsidies for advanced players and teachers to review hands with the beginning/intermediate players.

Unit Newsletter/Website

All agreed that the Newsletter and Website are excellent and the editors are doing a great job. BS pointed out a couple corrections that needed to be made on the Website and KN made a note to communicate the issues to the Webmaster.



Publicity**Dave Becker**

No report

Supplies**Clif Rice**

No report.

STAC (U174)**Karen Naussbaum**

No Report.

GNT and NAP**Karen Naussbaum**

See discussion above under Awards.

Next Board Meeting**Kathleen McDougall**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at Tracy Gee's Community Center on April 11, 2022 at 9:15 AM.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by TR. All were in favor.

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clif Rice, Unit 174 Secretary

By Sarah Springer, transcribed from Zoom recording. SS not present at this meeting.

