



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

May 4, 2020

Go-To-Meeting Video Conference/Phone-In

Call to order

Lauri Laufman

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 a.m. Directors in attendance: Joyce Gore, Nancy Guthrie, David Henke, Lauri Laufman, Jack LaVigne, Kathleen Malcolmson, Clif Rice and Nancy Strohmer. Sheryl Thomas did not attend. Others present: Gary Hercules-Treasurer, Paul Cuneo, Betty Starzec, Dave Becker, B Haznedar, Kathleen McDougall, Karen Nussbaum, and Joe Quinn.

Approval of Minutes

Kathleen Malcolmson

The minutes were prepared and emailed to the Board.

Motion: That the April 2020 Minutes be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Nancy Strohmer, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

The March 2020 Financial Statements were verified and emailed to the Board. The April 2020 Financial Statements, also presented, are currently pending approval from the verifier.

Motion: That the March 2020 Financial Statements be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy Strohmer, seconded by Clif Rice, and approved unanimously.



Motion: That the April 2020 Financial Statements be approved pending verification.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Clif Rice, and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Update by Paul Cuneo

Paul Cuneo

For the recent ACBL regionally rated online tournament, Stay @ Home, Play @ Home, BBO had seven-thousand tables over four days. Paul would like feedback from players about this tournament. Gold Rush Pairs may be considered for future online tournaments, as well as two-session pairs. Feedback about these subjects and more is welcome. There were some hic-ups on BBO for this four-day event. For example, some tables were dropped and convention cards had disappeared.

ACBL may break even without face-to-face bridge. BBO games have doubled since games have gone online. The ACBL is earning 50-70% of its normal income.

Elections

Lauri Laufman

2511 postcards containing information for voting in the Unit 174 Election were mailed to the membership for a final cost of \$1445.00. According to the election judge, voting participation went up immediately after the mailing.

June 2020 Sectional

Clif Rice/Joyce Gore

The Tournament Chairs are prepared for the tournament to proceed as scheduled.

August 2020 Sectional with I/N Regional

Lauri Laufman/TBA

Bill Riley has been appointed Partnership Chair for the Sectional.
Sheryl Thomas has been appointed Partnership Chair for the I/N Regional.
Speakers for Thursday, Friday and Saturday are pending.
Co-Chair and Hospitality Chair are pending.
Pre-dealt hands will be used for team games in both tournaments.
The Sectional and I/N Regional Flyer have been created.

Motion: That the August 2020 Sectional and I/N Regional flyers both be approved.

The motion was made by Nancy Guthrie, seconded by Nancy Strohmer, and approved unanimously.



New Member Recruitment / Retention

All

No report.

STaC

Sheryl Thomas

No report.

GNT

Clif Rice

No report.

NAP

Clif Rice

No report.

Committee Reports

Club Connection

Nancy Guthrie

No plans for now.

Charity Report

Nancy Strohmer

The following District Charity games were held in March 2020:

March 10 - Dress for Success Houston (DFSH)

March 13 – DFSH

The following Clubs participated:

Apple II, Bridge Club of Houston, Clear Lake, Galveston, Houston Racquet Club, Lone Star, Southwest Duplicate Club, Star, Westside Bridge Academy.

All money except for two clubs (\$4/table) has been received. Total amount that will go to DFSH is \$676 from this round of Charity Games.

The Charity Coordinator encourages everyone to thank these Clubs for participating in the Charity Games.

Education

Betty Starzec

It has been requested of District 16 to approve the financing of \$1,700 to have a Best Practices Teacher Workshop (the new TAP) at the Lone Star Regional in 2021.

Typically, there is an accreditation program every other year at the LS Regional. The district funds three per year. This request will assure that funding is in place for the LSR.

A program for teaching online is being created by the Educational Foundation.



Intermediate/Newcomer**Nancy Guthrie**

No report.

Member Communications**Jeanne Phelps**

In April there were six new members and 16 transferred-in members.

Website and Information**Carol Winograd**

No report.

Mentor/Mentee Subsidy

After discussion, it was decided that the subsidy for Clubs will continue.

It was brought up by one Board Member that regulations are not being enforced for the M/M games and that enforcement or a change in regulations should be examined.

M/M should be once per month for an a.m. game and once per month for a p.m. game. Masterpoint requirements should be kept in place and enforced.

Section 5.2 of the Procedure Manual will be removed as section 5.1 is current.

The remaining sections under 5. Beginner Game Programs will be reviewed.

Supplies**Clif Rice**

Ordering more supplies such as bidding boxes, to accommodate new methods of play was discussed. No decision was made for making new purchases at this time.

Awards**Sheryl Thomas**

New Life Master plaques were made for the following members: Tera Boyd, Jay Evert, Helene Gersch, Steven Gordon, Jerry Hoffman, Joni Holten, Linda Lewis, Ronnie Martin, Gregory May, Andrew Remson and Nancy Shomette.

Plaques will be mailed in the event that they have not already been distributed.



New Business

District 16 Update

Kathleen Malcolmson

The next D16 meeting will take place via Go-to-Meeting on July 6th at 10:30 a.m.

Unit 174 – District 16 Fund Seed Money Subsidy for Qualifying Clubs

Lauri Laufman

Unit 174 advised District 16 that their proposed GoFundMe account for Unit Clubs will not work for U174. Nancy Strohmer has made a suggestion based on what other Units of D16 have done. A few Units have requested that the District send the \$500 seed money to the Unit and the Unit will distribute the money to the qualifying club(s) on an equitable basis. The clubs(s) will use the \$500 seed money to conduct its own fundraising campaign. A qualifying club is described as one that is currently paying rent, utilities, possibly full-time employees' salaries (non-owners) and other expenses while their club is closed.

The Unit 174 BOD approved the suggested proposal for Unit 174. An email was sent to Unit 174 Clubs asking those interested in participating to advise by April 30.

Within our unit, we had responses from Eric Watson (Fort Bend), Brigette Sandifer (Apple), Joyce Gore (country clubs), Bert Onstott (WBA), Sam Khayatt (BCOH), Judith Hoffing (Spring Branch) and Katie Gardner (CLBC). Most included a note of appreciation for the efforts but either did not qualify or if did, declined participation feeling other clubs might benefit more.

Westside Bridge Academy both qualified and expressed interest in participating.

District 16 was advised and approved. A check for \$500 is being issued to Unit 174. Unit 174 will in turn distribute to Westside Bridge Academy to use as seed money for their own fundraising campaign.

Once Westside Bridge Academy's fundraising campaign has been initiated, Unit 174 is asked to help publicize and encourage members to participate.

Procedure Manual

Kathleen Malcolmson

The updated Procedure Manual will be emailed to the BOD today.

Tournament Contracts/Future

Lauri Laufman/Jack LaVigne

No update.

Team Game Updates

Jack LaVigne

No report.



Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:00 p.m., exiting at 12:17 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was made by Nancy Strohmer, seconded by Nancy Guthrie; approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Next Board Meeting will be June 8th at 6 or 6:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting/Phone-In.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Malcolmson, Unit 174 Secretary

