



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

November 11, 2019

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to order

Lauri Laufman

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. Directors in attendance: Cindy Cox, Nancy Guthrie, David Henke, Lauri Laufman, Kathleen Malcolmson, and Sheryl Thomas. Others present: Gary Hercules-Treasurer, Nancy Strohmer-Charity Coordinator, Karen Nussbaum.

Approval of Minutes

Lauri Laufman

The meeting minutes were prepared and emailed to the Board.

Motion: That the October 2019 Minutes be approved.

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

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hercules

The Report was not mailed to the BOD due to computer issues of the Treasurer. Approval is postponed to the next BOD meeting. The reports have been verified.

Old Business

August 2019 Sectional

Clif Rice

No report.



November 2019 Sectional

Jack LaVigne/Cindy Cox

Feedback for the Galveston Tournament was 99% positive. A consistent complaint was about the lunch on Friday. There was little choice and the food was not hot. That was corrected before Saturday but by then, players had made other plans for Saturday's lunch. The evening events were very well received. The walk from the rooms to the event hall was too long for those with mobility issues.

Greg May did excellent work with providing ample volunteers from the local area.

This report will be expanded for the December meeting when Jack LaVigne is present.

LSR 2020 Regional

Lauri Laufman/Jack LaVigne

Marriott: Pre-planning meeting scheduled for Wed Nov 14 with Romy.

Special Events:

Tue: 0-5 Morning Game - free and supervised; after 2nd session - I/N Reception (0-299).

Wed or Thu: Volunteer Appreciation Day.

Fri: Teacher Appreciation Day.

Sat: D16 BOD Meeting (and breakfast); Before 2nd session - D16 Star Award Announcements; After 2nd session - Aces & Knaves movie showing.

Speakers: All speakers have been secured. Waiting on one bio and then will move forward towards finishing up the poster for publication. Will promote the speakers in Jan Scorecard, on website, in newsletters, etc.

Advertising: ACBL Bridge Bulletin confirmed for November and December. Scorecard confirmed for Nov/Dec. In addition, Scorecard is providing extra publicity for Aces & Knaves. Will submit for Jan/Feb issue. A customized e-blast is being prepared to be sent in mid to late November and possibly a different one to D16 and surrounding districts.

Other Publicity: Carol Wilson is developing copy for reaching out to newspapers and magazines in order to publicize the tournament, the 0-5 games, as well as the Aces & Knaves showing. We may be able to secure some ACBL Co-op funds depending on what is done and the cost.

Daily Bulletin: Meeting with the publisher later this month. All board members are encouraged to sell ads.



Registration gifts: The main gift has shipped and will be delivered in December to our storage unit. Other items will be ordered at a later date since they have short lead times.

Chairs: Hospitality, Partnership, I/N & Caddy are well prepared for the LSR.

Photographer: Al Fortier has confirmed.

Event Naming: Merrill Lynch has secured a \$500 package for advertising in the Daily Bulletin and event naming. Jack LaVigne will report with an update at the next meeting.

Director's Refresher Course: Five people have signed up to date.

Exhibiting Vendors (1) Book Sales: Jeremy Lewis has confirmed. **(2) Clothing Sales:** Graham Crackers has confirmed. **(3) Jewelry Sales:** Kathy Hines has confirmed.

ACBL President: An invitation to attend our LSR will be sent to the new President once he/she is elected at the upcoming NABC.

Bridge Pads: Apple, BCOH, Clear Lake & Westside clubs will be requested to provide.

Aces & Knives – A quote is requested for set-up and rental of the screen from the hotel. Options for hospitality will be looked into. Betty Starzec has offered up to \$300 from the Ed Fund to subsidize.

District Breakfast: Nancy Strohmer and Rebecca Brown will be requested to provide information in order to reserve meeting space and food.

Restaurant Guide: Need to acquire volunteers to help request discounts and door prizes from local food establishments.

Team Game Screens: Jack tested this out in Galveston and is working on using at LSR. We will further detail at December BOD meeting.



New Member Recruitment / Retention

All

No report.

STaC

Sheryl Thomas

669.5 tables October's event. \$3,090.11 has been received. Email going out for December event on Nov. 12th.

GNT/NAP

Clif Rice

Flyers have arrived and will be revised and distributed.

Committee Reports

Club Connection

Nancy Guthrie

Next takes place on December 11th at Clear Lake Bridge Club. Play begins at 10 a.m.

Charity Report

Nancy Strohmer

The following is from a report submitted by Ms. Strohmer.

Recommendation to the Board of Directors for 2020 U174 Charity: **Dress for Success Houston**

It was difficult to make a selection because there were so many impressive nominations. I want to thank **Carol Winograd** for her impressive work in the selection process. I am proud of the volunteer efforts in our unit and I am especially proud and thankful for Carol's efforts—she is exceptional.

Criteria:

1. Prefer to choose a different area of focus than SEARCH and Make-A-Wish since SEARCH was the 2017 and 2018 U174 charity and Make-A-Wish was 2019 designated charity
2. Prefer those with a Charity Navigator rating of 90%+, although would not eliminate those that are not rated or that are rated less than 90%
3. Prefer those that impact the U174 geographical area
4. Prefer those that are non-denominational, although would not eliminate those denominational charities

Nominations for 2020 U174 Charity with Charity Navigator rating:

1. BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids: Potentially eligible for rating
2. Blue Bird Circle: Potentially eligible for rating
3. Child Advocates Center of Fort Bend County: No report, but information is recorded (financials, etc.)
4. Dress for success Houston: 94.63 out of 100
5. East Spring Branch Food Pantry: Not rated



6. Emergency Aid Coalition: Potentially eligible for rating
7. Houston Food Bank: 98.23 out of 100
8. Judy's Mission: No report
9. Parkinson's Foundation: 90.24
10. Rebuilding Together Houston: 97.17 out of 100
11. Salvation Army Addiction Treatment & Rehab: Religious institutions are not rated
12. Shriners Hospitals for Children: 96.51
13. ALSAC St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: 91.31

Recommend Dress for Success Houston as 2020 U174 Charity

DFSH provides programs to underserved women in our community, including veterans. These programs focus on acquiring skills needed to find a job and be successful in the workplace, with the ultimate goal of attaining financial independence. The encouragement from staff and volunteers often provides the spark to motivate them to achieve these goals

Reasons Dress for Success deserves to be the 2020 charity for the ACBL Unit 174 charity:

1. For over 20 years Dress for Success has provided business attire, job search skills and career advancement services to more than 43,500 women in the Houston area. In 2019, over 500 volunteers are helping to provide these services to over 3700 women. Their staff and volunteers are often their only sustained encouragement to achieve their goals.
2. Dress for Success has served 1300 veterans since 2014. Participation in the program has resulted in **58%** employment year to date.
3. The demographics of the women entering the program include:
 - a. 85% single women
 - b. 53% are mothers
 - c. 44% identify as homeless
 - d. 25% experienced domestic abuse e. 34% were on public assistance
4. After participating in the program, the women showed marked personal and financial improvements:
 - a. 79% feel they are equipped to handle the unexpected
 - b. 71% believe that life is worthwhile
 - c. 51% have earned a raise and others have received promotions
 - d. Over 50% of participants were no longer on public assistance



Motion: To accept Dress for Success as 2020 Charity.

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

Upcoming Charity Games:

Monday, December 9 **Unit Charity**, ACBL Charity Foundation
Tuesday, December 10 **Unit Charity**, Make-A-Wish
Wednesday, December 11 **Unit Charity**, ACBL Charity Foundation
Friday, December 13 **Unit Charity**, Make-A-Wish

These games will have a Masterpoint rating of **81.8%** sectional-rated points, whereas regular club games have a Masterpoint rating of 63.6% which is great for the players!

Directory

David Henke

An email has gone out to clubs. It is suggested that a volunteer be available to help members who become confused about how to check and correct their information online.

Teachers will be contacted to inquire if they want to be listed in the Directory.

Education

Betty Starzec

No report.

Intermediate/Newcomer (& New Member)

Cindy Cox

There were fourteen First-Timers in the November Sectional. Cindy is going to clubs and leaving flyers for First-Timers. The process will continue to be improved at upcoming tournaments.

Member Communications

Catherine Miller

Over the last twelve months the committee has attempted to contact 512 members (138 new members, 76 transferred into unit, 51 life masters behind in their dues, and 247 non-life masters behind in their dues). The committee needs more volunteers in the central Houston and Bryan/College Station areas.

The Board appreciates the volunteers on the Member Communications Committee and their service to the Unit (in no particular order):

Catherine Miller, Sharon Kirkland, Lenna Landers, Cindy Hillman, Phyliss Dillard, Gail Carter, Sam Khayatt, Susan Stone, Bob Cohen, Julia O'Shea, Nancy Shomette, Jeanne Phelps, Dick McGaughy, Judy Ensor, Shirley Kingsley, and Odus Nolte.



Nominating Committee**Nancy Strohmer**

Nancy thanks the candidates who have come forward to run for the ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors:

Dave Becker, B (Binnur) Haznedor, Greg May, Kathleen McDougall, Karen Nussbaum, Joe Quinn.

Supplies**Clif Rice**

Needed supplies for purchase:

- 1) Rolling carts for bidding boxes is needed. A Sears Craftsman model has been researched and deemed suitable.
- 2) Rolling White Board for Speakers.

Motion: To approve purchase for both items, up to \$500.00.

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

Other**Bridge in Schools****Kathleen Malcolmson**

No report.

Bridge as a Sport**Nancy Guthrie**

No report.

Awards**Sheryl Thomas**

Three Life Master plaques have been mailed or given at a LM party: Cynthia Bell, Richard Labouliere, and Janet Siegreest.

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

The Budget has been prepared and revised. 26/27 boards for pair games on Friday and Saturday is approved.

The Annual Meeting will take place Sunday at 9:15 a.m. The maximum time for this meeting is twenty minutes. A coupon towards a breakfast item and beverage will be



provided for those who attend. The concession will be open to provide this.

Motion: To approve the budget.

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



Motion: To approve the Annual Meeting time change with Breakfast items.

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

Further details of the Annual Mtg and Breakfast item coupons to be discussed later.

District 16 Update

Kathleen Malcolmson

No report.

Procedure Manual

Lauri Laufman/Kathleen Malcolmson

Delayed to next meeting.

Tournament Contracts/Future

Lauri Laufman/Jack LaVigne

The November 2020 Tournament will be held at Arabia Shiners, located at Harwin near Beltway 8. A contract has been signed. There is free parking onsite and nearby. The facility fee is \$5600. There is a concession stand within.

GNT Club Subsidy

\$100 subsidy suggested to be adequate. This includes a minimum of four teams participating at the club.

Motion: To approve the \$100 GNT Club Subsidy.

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

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:25, exiting at 11:35.



Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Next Board Meeting on Dec. 9th, 9:30 a.m. at Tracy Gee Community Center.

The Jan. Board Meeting will be on the 6th, 9:30 a.m. at Tracy Gee Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Malcolmson, Unit 174 Secretary

