



## Memorandum of Discussion

### ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

November 1, 2021

### Tracy Gee Community Center

#### Call to Order

Karen Nussbaum

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 am. Directors in attendance: Karen Nussbaum, Thomas Rush, Kathy McDougall, Lauri Laufman, Greg May, Joyce Gore. Dave Becker attended via Zoom. Absent were Clif Rice and Carol Lombardino. Also present as guests were Janice Hardcastle, Nancy Strohmer and Betty Starzec.

#### Approval of Minutes

The October minutes were not available for approval.

#### Treasurer's Report

Dave Becker

October financials are not yet available and will be presented at the next meeting.

Dave reviewed practices initiated per last month's meeting and outlined how the procedural changes will ensure additional security for our Unit's treasury.

Leslie Enloe has been hired as our unit bookkeeper at a fee of \$30/hour. She estimates her job will take 1-2 hours per month. Leslie will create the financial reports from the transaction history and documentation provided by the treasurer. Once completed, she will forward to the verifier, Herb Kalman. This will create three layers of security. Once approved, the financials will go to the president to present for board approval and then be posted to the unit website.

Duties of the treasurer, bookkeeper and verifier will be updated in our procedure manual and presented to the board for approval. An audit of the books and bonding for those having check signing authority may or may not be required as the board of directors determine.

**Motion: That we accept the policies outlined and presented by Dave Becker**



The motion made by Greg May, seconded by Joyce Gore.

**Motion carried**

Whether a By-law amendment change is needed regarding bonding requirements should be reviewed and if needed, should be written, and proposed for membership approval at our next annual meeting in April.

**Action Item:** Dave Becker is to discuss the matter with our unit attorney (Charles Gillis) and if recommended, present the proposed verbiage at the December board meeting.

## Old Business

<b>Technology</b>	No report	<b>Greg May</b>
<b>Procedure Manual</b>	No report	<b>Lauri Laufman</b>
<b>District Update</b>	No report	<b>Lauri Laufman</b>
<b>Club Connection</b>		<b>Thomas Rush</b>

Nothing planned at this time. Looking towards holding the next Club Connection at Cypress NW.

## Club Manager Report

**Greg May**

Greg said that club commissions for the unit 0-20 game will be sent via direct deposit (ACH) directly to the unit. We have \$40 BBO\$ in our unit virtual club account which will be used for the "bring a friend and play free" program that was recently initiated.

Related to the 0-20 game, Greg noted that within the FLM Group, the 49er game was not making and has been cancelled. Citing that in the District 16 0-49 game, 17 of the players (31%) have been Unit 174 players, he feels that we can get better attendance with a different timeslot by surveying the players.

## Tournament Contracts/ Future Sites

**Dave Becker**

The Westchase Marriott is continuing to work with Dave to complete the 2026 contract and improve both the venue rental and hotel room rates for attendees for the next 5 years. In addition, Dave is working to secure favorable pricing for overflow rooms from nearby hotels for the upcoming Regional.

## Committee Reports

### Nominating Committee

**Paul Nimmons**

Paul informed Karen that the committee has secured several candidates and are working to complete the slate.



## Charity Report

**Nancy Strohmer**

Nancy's recommendation, based on her communication with committee member, Carol Winograd is that since only two days of charity games were allowed to be held in 2021 due to the pandemic, Unit 174 continue to make Houston Food Bank our 2022 charity.

Nancy thanked Carol for her help.

**Motion: That the Houston Food Bank continue to be Unit 174's charity for 2022.**

The motion made by Lauri Laufman, seconded by Greg May.

**Motion carried**

## Traditions Game

**Nancy Strohmer**

Nancy detailed all the information regarding starting and holding each a sanctioned and social game to the requestor (Joan?), who in turn is taking the information back to management.

## I/N /Future Life Masters

**Kathy McDougall/ Greg May**

In the planning for during the Regional is an FLM Day to be held on Tuesday, January 25 inclusive of a morning 0-20 game, afternoon 0-99 "Mixer Madness" and a social event afterwards for those who played in each. It was requested these events added to the LSR flyer.

In attendance today, Greg acknowledged Janice Hardcastle, FLM Gemini Pilot, for her great work. Greg also cited that table count for the unit 0-20 FLM game since started March 12 is now up to 129 and that it has made every week.

By way of F2F, the next FLM "Road Show" will be held on November 10 at Clear Lake Bridge Club. It will include breakfast, a mini lesson, and a post-game review.

## Education

**Kathy McDougall**

Kathy recommended we should put time and energy into promoting a new program aimed towards 4-12<sup>th</sup> graders which started last week in schools called "Bridge-Whiz". Kathy said that there are around 85 students within our unit in this program.

Betty Starzec explained that there are over 2000 participants currently enrolled in this free, online, after-school beginning bridge program launched by The ACBL Educational Foundation and that there is a nice presence of students in the Katy area. Kathy wants to track how this program goes and to help engage these students into future unit events.

Kathy cited that within our unit we have over 25 school districts and that she is currently also looking towards private schools and those homeschooled to market this program. Methods for increasing recruitment and retention were discussed including that of incentives and looking into a possible scholarship program being implemented.



<b>New Member Recruitment</b>	No report	<b>Carol Lombardino</b>
<b>Unit Newsletter</b>	No report	<b>Jeanne Phelps</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	No report	<b>Dave Becker</b>

### Supplies

If we need anything from Baron Barclay, please let Dave know. Due to supply chain delays, it has been recommended we allow at least 45 days leeway.

<b>Website &amp; Information</b>	No report	<b>Carol Winograd</b>
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<b>STAC (U174)</b>		<b>Joyce Gore</b>
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November STaC has started with 14 clubs participating. Both the DIC and Unit website have everything set up for posting score updates for our members. Joyce hopes to have collected the \$6/table fees from all clubs by the end of November.

<b>GNT</b>	No report	<b>Joyce Gore</b>
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<b>NAP</b>	No report	<b>Joyce Gore.</b>
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<b>Awards</b>		<b>Joyce Gore</b>
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Joyce Gore reported the 3 new LM plaques ordered last month have been mailed. Regarding mailing costs, Joyce noted that mailing fees have gone up from \$8.50 to \$9.30 each. In light of clubs opening for F2F play, she recommended we again start handing the awards out in person during a game where possible. All agreed.

Betty Starzec mentioned that we have several unit members competing in the USBF Finals which will be held March 27-April 7 in Italy.

Included: USA 1 D'Orsi Senior Bowl: team member Eddie Wold and non-playing team captain, Bob Morris; USA 1 Venice Cup team member Shawn Quinn; USA 2 D'Orsi Senior Bowl: team member Dan Morse.

**Motion: That the board formally recognize the achievement of those qualifying for the 2021 World Championships.**

The motion made by Thomas Rush, seconded by Kathy McDougall.

**Motion carried**

## New Business

### Future NABC Interest

**Betty Starzec**

Karen asked about how we might secure a future NABC in Houston. Betty Starzec and Nancy Strohmer together shared that the NABC has been already planned for the next 5 years, that previously we were not able to be competitive, and that at one time we



dropped our Houston Convention and Visitor's Bureau (HCVB) membership. A great first step would be to rejoin this group.

## **Lone Star Regional**

**Karen Nussbaum/Thomas Rush**

Thomas is still trying to sort out estimated attendance in order to determine our costs in order to present the budget. At this time, they plan to use attendance based on 60% of previous regionals with the Austin NABC and other regionals to shed a little more information.

Karen stated that we still do not know what policies will be in effect regarding the wearing of face masks. At this time, yes per ACBL policy. Betty interjected that we might wish to look into using the digital app being used for the Austin NABC where attendees can verify their identities and submit their health credentials.

Joyce is now in charge of event naming. Naming fees were reviewed, and it was decided to continue with the same rates as in the past. By way of full day event naming, the board concurred that Karen and Thomas will hold one day (tbd) back to honor unit members participating in the 2021 World Championships.

We now have three vendors in place for the Regional, Jeremy the bookseller, Mike Graham and Carolyn Wedel.

The deadlines for submissions to the Bridge Bulletin was October 25 and that someone should reach out immediately to secure the ad.

The posted preliminary LSR flyer was reviewed, and recommended edits were made for publishing in the Jan/Feb Bridge Bulletin and upcoming Scorecard, both of which are now on deadline for submission. Nancy Strohmer noted that the deadline for ACBL was October 25, and someone should reach out immediately to secure. For District 16's Scorecard, editor Sue Caulfield should be contacted.

The flyer was reviewed, and several changes noted including the addition of FLM Day and 99er strat. As Clif is partnership chair, remove Ken and in hotel box, only Marriott Westchase hotel with rate is needed. For ads, removal of game fees recommended until firm.

**Action Item: Thomas to contact ACBL Bulletin; Karen to work with Jack LaVigne to prepare the full-page artwork to be used for the above and update the two-page flyer for ACBL and unit website.**

## **Next Board Meeting**

***Karen Nussbaum***

Friday December 10 at 9:15am at Tracy Gee

## **Executive Session**

None



## Adjournment

### Motion to adjourn

Made by Kathy McDougall - Seconded by Thomas Rush

***Motion carried***

***The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Lauri Laufman (for Clif Rice, Unit 174 Secretary)*

