



## **Memorandum of Discussion**

### **ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting**

**November 13, 2023**

**Tracy Gee Community Center**

#### **Call to Order**

**Karen Nussbaum**

President Karen Nussbaum brought the meeting to order at 9:25 am. Board members present at the meeting were Thomas Rush, Charles Dalton, Dave Becker, John Eric Watson, Nile Gross, Sarah Springer, John Dubose, Steve Gordon, and Paddy Fiorino. Also present was Nancy Strohmmer (Charity Chair) and Bridgette Sandifer. Antoun Henri was absent from the meeting.

#### **Apple club games**

**Bridgette Sandifer**

Bridgette wanted to inform the BOD of a situation affecting both the Monday (owner Susan Banks Johnson) and the Friday (owner Bridgette Sandifer) Apple games held at Tracy Gee community center currently. She stated that Harris County officials want a 501C3 document presented to them by the Apple clubs as a condition to continue use of the Tracy Gee facility. Discussion ensued that the Apple games could be put under the unit 501C4 umbrella pending confirmation by attorney Chuck Gillis. BS stated that Tracy Gee was agreeable to this. SG stated that the unit would then need a contract with the Apple club owners. Bridgette stated another option was that the Apple club games become a satellite club for West Houston Bridge Academy. She will address this option with the West Houston Bridge Academy management and follow-up further with the board.

#### **Executive Session**



**Approval of minutes****Paddy Fiorino**

PF presented minutes from the October 2 meeting which were previously circulated via email to the board. SS moved that the minutes be approved; NG seconded the motion and **minutes for the October 2, 2023 meeting were APPROVED.**

**Charity Report****Nancy Strohmer**

Nancy Strohmer presented the unit 174 November 2, 2023 Charity Committee report that was previously presented to the board via email. Nancy wanted to thank her co-chair Carol Winograd for her assistance on the committee. Nancy discussed their decision making processes. She made a proposal that the board approve the Arabia Shriners Houston as the 2024 Charity of the year. DB made this motion which was seconded by TR. The motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report****Steve Gordon**

Steve Gordon addressed the board referencing the rough draft of the Galveston sectional that was previously presented to the board via email. The was a loss of \$10,500 to \$10,800 for the sectional. The meal cost was \$15,000. DB noted there were several areas which were re-negotiated, or the loss would have been \$20,000. The Treasurer's report was accepted by the BOD.

**Club Manager Report****Greg May, Karen Nussbaum**

KN presented an email summary from Greg May. He reported 4 tables at the 0-50 unit game on 11/2/23. As of November 2, the following table counts are noted: 2023-171; 2022-207; 2021-171. ACBL/BBO has raised the table fees from \$3 to \$4.50.

**Technology****Thomas Rush**

TR reported no new issues.

**Procedure Manual and Bylaws****Karen Nussbaum**

KN repeated that corrections to the manual and bylaws are an ongoing process. The board members are to send any needed changes to Sarah Springer.



**Club Connection****Sarah Springer**

SS reminded the board of the upcoming Club Connection game at Clear Lake Wednesday 11/13/2023. Sarah reminded the board that board members need to make attendance at these games a priority. Sarah Springer will bring a cake to the game on behalf of the board.

**Bryan Sectional****Karen Nussbaum**

KN stated the planned sectional at Bryan has been cancelled because of anticipated poor attendance. KN stated that the sectional will be rescheduled for October 25-27. She stated that the Shriner's facility is available, and Moody Gardens is available. The hired magician will have to be contacted once the date/place are decided. SS stated that people really enjoyed the Galveston sectional and she felt another Galveston sectional could be profitable with evening meals and entertainment omitted. DB stated that the San Luis hotel in Galveston could allow for some competitive bidding with Moody Gardens. DB stated that the lunch cost to members should be increased. TR stated he thought that the sectional should be in areas north of Houston such as Conroe or Spring. DB stated the Houston Intercontinental hotel near the airport was an option. TR made a motion that he and DB explore these other venues and report back to the board by the next board meeting. This motion was passed.

**FLM/Budget****Karen Nussbaum**

The board is still awaiting a report from Cindy Cox.

**StaC/GNT/NAP/New LM****John Watson**

JW stated he has LM plaques for several persons that need to be delivered. He will call these people to attempt to find a local club so that the plaques can be sent to these clubs for presentation. Plaques can be mailed to the recipients that he is unable to reach.



**Lone Star Regional****Karen Nussbaum**

There will be ads for the LSR in the Bridge Bulletin December and January issues. SS stated she is receiving inquiries for the Best Practices class. There is an 8 person minimum for the class. These people will be instructed to mail a check to SG payable to "ACBL unit 174" with their ACBL #, phone number, and address. The hospitality gift was discussed further. NG made a motion to approve the nightlight. Motion was seconded by CD. The motion passed. KN reported the Event Naming Event is progressing well. Jane Armstrong reported an anonymous donation for the tournament candy. Players with 12,000+ points must play in the Mini-Soloway. 2 speakers have been arranged. NG and AH are responsible for the Daily Bulletin for the LSR. SG and TR will assist them with any needed spreadsheets. KN stated that volunteers are still needed. Hallie Eads is the new chairman of the Nominating Committee. She needs a co-chair and more potential candidates.

**Next meeting****Karen Nussbaum**

The next board meeting is December 4; the January board meeting will be January 8, 2024.

**StaC changes****Karen Nussbaum**

DB made a motion that the upper limit for unit StaC games be raised from 2500 to 3000 MP in the B bracket. Motion was seconded by JW. The procedure manual will be changed to reflect this change.

**April 2024 sectional****Karen Nussbaum**

CD and JW will be the co-chairs for the April 2024 election sectional. Betty Westbrook is willing to help with the flyers. SS is the vice-president running the election. Pau Nimmons is the election judge.

**Executive Session**

## **Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn** made by CD. TR seconded. All were in favor.

***Motion carried***

***The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Paddy Fiorino, Unit 174 Board Secretary*

