



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

October 6th, 2008

Houston Bridge Studio

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. Present were Pat Levy- Vice President, Bert Onstott-Secretary, Paul Cuneo, Bob Dowlen, John Erickson, Lauri Laufman, Karen Nimmons, and Joyce Ryan.

Also present for the beginning of the meeting was Jim Woodward-Treasurer.

Minutes of September board meeting

Bert

The minutes were approved via on-line poll.

Treasurer's report

Jim

Jim gave the Treasurer's report. Some highlights are:

- Current total assets are: \$169,457.43.
- Of that total, \$75,582.27 is reserved for use by the NABC.
- Net income YTD is \$9,184.21.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be approved as submitted.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Jim will be absent for the October sectional. Pat will fill in by bringing the necessary starting money for the directors and write the required checks.

Jim will propose a 2009 budget at next month's meeting for approval.

Committee Reports

Awards/Flyers

Karen

Karen ordered 5 Life Master Plaques; she has ordered a total of 20 since we pre-purchased 100; 80 are remaining.



Karen has sent Regional, Pro-Am, October Sectional, and NAOP flyers to all the clubs. She will be sending out 50 flyers to ten Regionals that occur between now and next February.

Communications Committee

Pat (for Betty Freedman)

Betty Freedman's nine person committee is still working hard; 36 people were contacted last month either via telephone or post card.

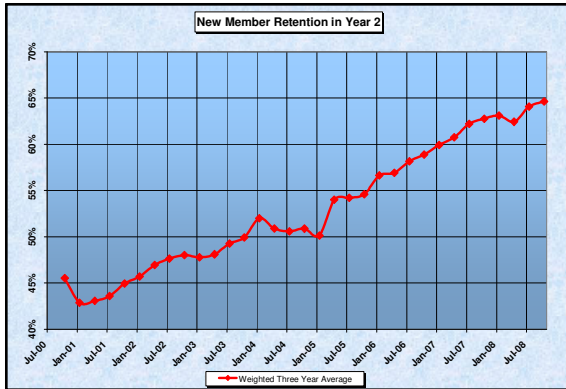
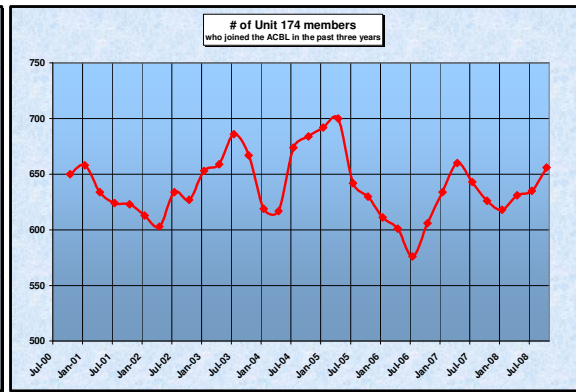
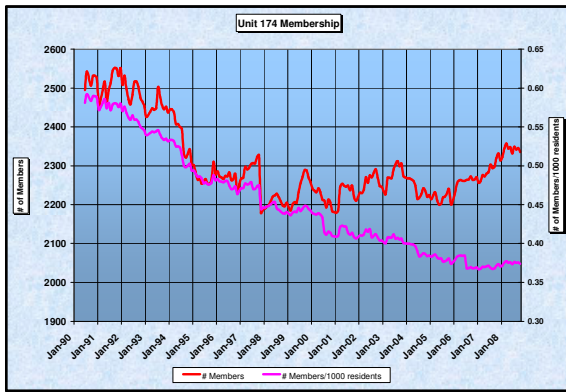
Membership

Bert

Membership is down 11 to 2,334 from 2,345. We had 10 new members. There were 31 members who did not renew. How many of these are just late due to like we'll find out next month.

Second year retention (65%) and the number of new members in the past three years (656) are both up.

It's pretty amazing that we've gone from a low of retaining only about 42% of our new members to 65% in the past seven years, but reaching 2,400 members seems to be tough. Hopefully the Social Bridge Initiative will get us there.



Fund Raising

Bob

There was no news.

Goodwill

Pat

Pat sent one get well card to Milton Freedman who is recovering from colon surgery.



I/N, Education & Book Sales**Joyce**

Joyce sold 23 books this month to Laura Lee Jones (5), John Zilic (14), and Barbara Delozier (4).

NAP/GNT**John**

NAP

John has received reports from ten unit clubs listing their NAP qualifiers. Later this week he will send those on to Bert who will make a web page for the Unit web page.

GNT

There are no new developments. The Unit game will be in February.

New Player Services**Paul**

Paul has a committee; his committee will be ready for the October tournament.

Pro-Am**Paul**

Clear Lake, BCOH, and HBS will be holding games. Flyers have been sent out to all clubs. All clubs are urged to help promote the game.

STAC**Bob**

Bob reported on the September STaC. Fourteen clubs participated; the total table count was 548. Total expenses were \$2,422.87; total income was \$4,384.00; net profit was \$1,961.13.

Supplies**Lauri**

Lauri has been inventorying the supplies in preparation for the Social Bridge Event and the October sectional.

Bert has refurbished the tall supply cabinet: replaced all the hardware, rebuilt the table card holder, and painted the cabinet. Still needed are the replacement metal cabinets; Powers Industries ordered the wrong ones, and Bert had to get them to send them back and order the right ones. Hopefully, they'll be here in the next week.

Tournament Coordination**Pat**

Pat reported that the Marriott isn't quoting the bridge rate for the Regional to at least some who call and request it. She will contact Becky Zendejas and follow up.

Also, people are inquiring about the upcoming 99'r and 299'r tournaments; there are as yet no on-line flyers for these tournaments. These need to be created so the ACBL can link to them.

Pat finalized credit card payment and gave the names of the directors to Regency Suites Hotel in Humble.

She also finalized the scheduling of all special events with the ACBL for 2009 and the Sectional dates for 2010.

Old Business**October Sectional****John/Paul**

Paul and John are having trouble finding someone to do the catering for the October sectional. They have found someone to do it; this person will only do it if they are also allowed to cater the



Sunday meal. They will match Demeris' price. Paul will check on their credentials and make a decision.

If they can't find someone to cater the snack bar, they will buy cokes and coffee and ice and handle it themselves.

All else is on track per the procedures manual.

Election Sectional

Lauri, Bob

Lauri passed out a preliminary budget for the Election sectional to be held next May. The P&L for last April's tournament is still missing some cost items; she needs those to finalize the budget. She will bring a revised version to the November meeting for approval.

Motion: That we raise the Sunday entry fees for the 2009 Sectionals to \$13/session to help defray the cost of the meal.

The motion was seconded and approved.

On-Line Partnership Desk

Bert

Bert is still finishing up some details. He thinks he's figured out how to modify it to handle requests for team games. Bert has been appointed District Webmaster, replacing Steve Bruce; that will make moving it to the district web server less of a problem. Bert plans to spend this week finishing it up; he'll ask Arlene to make it available as soon as he's done.

Contract for Head Caddy

Jim

Jim passed out a revised contract for the head caddy. The board felt that the terms of the contract should include words about "duties in accordance with the Unit procedures manual". Jim will make these changes and send a copy to Sandy Bippert for her signature.

Programs for Clubs

Joyce

Joyce spent some time last month with Peggy Naughton of the Clear Lake club talking about Novice/Mentor and beginner game subsidies. Clear Lake is starting a five session fall mentor program as well as a Beginner game program. On Fridays evenings when there is not a Mentor game, they will hold a 0-20 game.

Marriott Renewal Contracts

Bert

Bert signed the new contracts for the annual Lone Star Regional on September 25th, after getting the hotel to revise the cancellation clause to be the same as in previous agreements. We now have a home for the Regional through 2015.

Sectional Tournament Sites

John

John reported that Bill St. Clair confirmed that the Berry Center does use all the available space for church services on Sundays until about 1:30, making this site unavailable for tournaments.

The University of Houston at Clear Lake has been proposed as a possible sectional site; Bob Dowlen will check into their facilities, availability and price.

John will recheck the conditions and cost of holding a tournament at the Sam Houston Race Park.



2009/2010 Directory

Bert

We need to make a last minute pitch for people to correct their information with the ACBL at the October tournament. We will do this using a sign near the hospitality table and a book with members' current contact information on the hospitality table. Paul will ask the hospitality volunteers to prompt people to check their information. Bert will print an updated list of the unit members contact information.

Bert will get the final set of data from the ACBL in January, and format it for printing.

Bert will contact those who bought ads in the past to see if they want to do so again. Anyone who so desires can have a full page ad for \$100.

Social Bridge Event

Bert

The event will take place as scheduled on October 18th.

Julie Halperin, Barbara Phillips, Joyce Ryan, Betty Starzec and Gary King will be the instructors. Gary is working with each to finalize lesson plans.

Dianna has recruited volunteers for the event and has assembled 200 registration packets.

We plan to set on Friday evening, October 17th. We'll need supplies delivered Friday before 5:00 pm and picked up on Monday. In another week we'll have a better idea of exactly what supplies we'll need.

The Social Bridge Committee will meet again on October 7th to finalize details.

As of Friday, October 3rd, we had 62 registrants. We expect a few more, but at this point we'll be surprised if we reach 200. All Unit members are urged to make a last minute pitch to any social bridge players they know or know about.

2009 Lone Star Regional

Pat

The ad for the scorecard has been sent to Ira Hessel. It will be on the back page of the Scorecard in the November/December issue.

Joyce Ryan has been working on the speaker schedule.

New Business

Caddy Procedures for Unit Procedures Manual

Paul discussed his write up of caddy procedures for inclusion in the unit procedures manual. Some minor revisions were suggested; Paul will make those changes and incorporate the procedures in the Unit Procedures Manual. The board will review and vote on the revisions to the manual in the November meeting.

Yahoo Group and Box.net administration

Paul Cuneo volunteered to take over administration of the Yahoo Group used for board communication and the www.box.net on-line file storage and sharing service from Bert. Bert will make Paul the 'owner' of both services.

Future Meeting dates

Future board meeting dates are November 3rd, December 1st, and January 5th, 2009.



Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted



Bert Onstott

