



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2017

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to order Ken

Acting president Ken Hudson called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. All Directors were present: Ken Hudson, Lauri Laufman, Bill Riley, Dianna Gittelman, Daniel Jackson, Nancy Strohmer, John Caudill, Nancy Guthrie and David Henke. Also present, Treasurer Gary Hercules.

Election of New President Ken

Motion – That Nancy Strohmer serve as president and Ken Hudson continue as Vice-President to complete out the current term.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Approval of minutes Nancy

The August and September meeting minutes were prepared and emailed to the Board

Motion – That the August and September Minutes be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report Gary

The August and September financial reports were submitted by Gary Hercules prior to the Board Meeting.

Motion – That the August and September 2017 Financial Statements be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved by all.



Old Business

2018 LSR

Nancy/Bill

Nancy Strohmer and Ken Hudson will now be the Tournament Chairs of LSR 2018. Bill Riley will continue overseeing both Event Naming and the Director's Course.

Nancy and Ken's other chairs still include Sam Khayatt (Hospitality Chair), Lauri Laufman (Partnership Chair) and Nancy Guthrie (I/N Chair).

Bill gave a rundown of all events already named including several memorial events: Michael Tsai (All day Saturday), Ed Lily (All day Sunday) and Pete Hanson (Friday bracketed Swiss).

It was decided our Daily Bulletin will still be available both in print and online. We will however monitor and cut back the quantity printed daily.

August Sectional

Lauri

We had another highly successful tournament, with 851.5 tables, a 5% increase in table count over last year's August sectional attendance. We had \$39,581 in revenues from table fees and \$32,000-\$33,000 in expenses once everything has been accounted for, our unit will show a positive bottom line of \$6,900-\$7,400.

Part of the reason for this is in the board's decision (based on membership feedback) to not serve lunch on Sunday but rather offer a discounted rate to play. Compliments were received both for the concession (selections, service and pricing) as well as for the buffet option in the hotel restaurant. The staggered lunch seemed to work well too.

As a result of only serving coffee in the morning prior to the first session, we were able to offer a hospitality event (ice cream bars served) on Saturday afternoon which was quite well received.

Our 2-day championship pair event was an experiment in preparation for the upcoming regional, and we had some difficulties.

Other items mentioned with regard to future events at the Marriott to keep in mind for budgeting to be aware that delivery of supplies has increased (now use 2 trucks) and that concession labor charges should be included. Suggestion to not set up tables so close to the north foyer door and to continue only using one trash can per table at this venue.



Dianna has yet another new contact at the event site. Volunteer set-up will be on Friday morning of the event at 7:45am due to hotel setting up the room and tables late Thursday.

New Member Recruitment / Retention

Nancy G

With regard to the UIL discussion from last meeting, Joe Giovannangeli has been requested to identify someone at the state level of the UIL and set up meeting - Bill and Nancy Guthrie would be glad to make the pitch about bridge.

We discussed how to continue reaching out to our newer membership and praised the outstanding job of our Members Communication Committee. A suggestion was made to have board members participate in making follow up calls a few months after our Members Communication Committee reaches them for that extra "touch".

Committee Reports

Marketing Committee Report

No report to review at this meeting.

Website and Information Committee Report

No report to review at this meeting.

Club Connection

We had a nice representation at Livingston last week. Today is our Club Connection at Tracy Gee. As a result of some prior dates having been rescheduled, we still have several left for the remainder of the year (listed below):

Thursday, October 5th, Spring Branch, 11:30 am - 25th Anniversary celebration with game afterwards.

Friday, October 20th, Westside Bridge Academy, 10:30 am

Tuesday, November 14th, Bridge Club of Houston, 10:00 am

Wednesday, November 15th, Clear Lake Bridge Club, 10:00 am

Moving forward into 2018, we will resume our schedule.

NAP 2017 Unit Qualifiers

John/David

John Caudill will be on site Saturday and David Henke on Sunday. Melody Euler is the director-in-charge of this event.

John has requested a reminder email to go out prior to the event.

GNT Qualification 2017

John

GNT qualifiers will be done only at the club level and the three full-service duplicate bridge clubs in our unit have agreed to participate. It was previously agreed at the August



meeting that the unit will offer a subsidy to the clubs for running these qualifiers. Games can be a 1 or 2 session event.

Anyone who qualifies at the club level will can move forward to the district level. John Bill stated that the players need to qualify for the B and C flights. But one does not have to play on the same team they qualified, but do have to play at the flight that they qualified. No unit/club qualification is needed for flight A or Superflight. Flight C is less than 500 master points and non life master. Flight B is less than 2500. Flight A is less than 6000. Superflight has no point restrictions.

District qualifiers will be held at our Election Sectional in May 2018.

Unit Charity Games

Nancy S /Daniel

The four Charity Week dates are officially set: December 11, 13, 14 and 15.

\$4 per table per event will be donated to charity as a result of Charity Week. So far we have had good response to this in that it is great for clubs, players and charity.

Action item: Be sure to publicize and include in the November newsletters.

Procedures Manual

Nancy S /Daniel

Daniel had no report. Bill is no longer able to handle at this time and Lauri (having not been at the August meeting) offered to work on it if provided with any agreed upon edits.

New Business

Open Games

David

Started discussion regarding open games versus invitational ones and how each differ by way of clubs being sanctioned.

Due to time constraints, this topic has been tabled until the next meeting.

2020 LSR Regional

Nancy

ACBL has approached our unit to consider changing our event dates from Feb 3-9 to Jan 27-Feb 2 due to some scheduling conflicts by other cities. Discussion followed to create a win-win for all involved.

Motion: To move the date pending hotel venue availability and a subsidy from ACBL for sanction fees.

The motion was seconded and approved by all.



Storage Facility Move**Ken**

The facility that stores our supplies is moving and will continue to house them in their new Spring location.

Treasurer, Gary Hercules asked he get confirmation of the new address and county.

Online Scorecard**Nancy**

We have been discussing whether to still continue having printed copies of the Scorecard mailed to our membership. Results from polling members have been mixed so at least for 2018, we will continue providing it via mail as well as online.

In order to at least reduce duplication and shave costs some, it was suggested we only have one magazine mailed out per household.

Scorecard comes with an opt-out feature per person and we would like those that don't read it, to opt out. This will save the unit money as well as hopefully many trees.

Action item: To promote awareness of this opt-out option.

Houston Racquet Club Cancellation**Lauri**

ACBL notified our unit that this club has closed. I contacted Daad Rodgers and she confirmed that it was her decision to do so. The board thanks Daad for her many years of running this monthly game.

Nominating Committee**Nancy S**

It is time to secure a nominating committee. Due to time constraints discussion was limited today.

Awards Nominations**Nancy**

Texas Star and District Goodwill Award nominations and selections are due. Selections were made. (Sorry, mum is the word for now)

New Marriott Set-Up**Daniel**

As technical testing was done prior to the August Sectional to insure the score pads would function correctly in all areas where games are held with success, Daniel suggested we initiate the change in room set-ups starting in June 2018 and the board agreed that this was a good plan.

New I/N Game at Tracy Gee**Nancy S**

Paul Cuneo and Jeanne Phelps will be introducing a 0-49 game on Fridays at Tracy Gee. Jeanne would like to be able to have a list of members by zip code in order to contact those to let them know about the game.

The board approved her being allowed to secure email addresses from Paul Cuneo.



Executive Session

A motion was made and approved to go into Executive Session.

The Board spent 5 minutes in Executive Session.

A motion to end Executive Session was made and approved by all.

Future Meeting Dates

The last two Board Meetings for 2017 will be held at at Tracy Gee Community Center on Monday November 6 (9:30 am) and Monday December 4 (at 9:30 am).

Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 11:34 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Laufman, Unit Secretary

