



Memorandum of Discussion
ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting
September 12, 2022
Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to Order

Kathy McDougall

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by Vice President Kathy McDougall. Directors in attendance: Kathy McDougall, Charles Dalton, John DuBose, Steve Gordon, Byron Fackenthal, Clif Rice, Greg May, Karen Nussbaum (via Zoom) and Sarah Springer. Also present as guests were Betty Starzec and Nancy Strohmer. Absent was Thomas Rush.

Approval of Minutes

Clif Rice made a motion to approve the August minutes. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Gordon

Steve Gordon reviewed financials. Discussion was had concerning the Vanguard laddered CD's. Sarah Springer stated we have discussed this for two meetings already and we don't need to wait till the next meeting to make the investments. SG will speak to TR when he returns about the investment and the Board will approve the plan via email poll. Following approval, SG may proceed with laddered CD's with Vanguard brokered system.

Old Business

Technology

Greg May

The Zoom account is expiring. Nancy Strohmer made a **Motion** to approve renewal of the Zoom account for a cost of up to \$200 for the year; Charlie Dalton seconded and all were in favor. **Motion Carried.**



Procedure Manual

No report

District Update

Karen Nussbaum

Nancy Strohmer noted that the District needed to send a written report to this Board. Action Item: The new Unit Directory is coming out at the Lone Star Regional; Bert Onstott is working on it and a member of this board needs to pair with him on the project.

Club Connection

John Dubose

John DuBose stated than no one from the clubs has contacted him following his initial contact. He has drafted an email to the club managers which he would like someone to review before he sends it. Some of the games are far afield and start early. Sugar Land is our next club and it meets on Tuesdays at 9 am. Sarah Springer stated that the schedule for club connection visits should be made a year in advance so that board members and clubs can make appropriate plans. Betty Starzac pointed out that the clubs really appreciate the visits by the Board of Directors and the connections build good will and that is very important. John DuBose will make a list of the clubs. Eric Watson needs to be contacted about the Sugar Land visit.

Kathy McDougal, Karen Nussbaum and John Dubose agreed they would work on the Club Connection.

Club Manager Report

Greg May

No report

Tournament Contracts/ Future Sites

Thomas Rush

No report

Committee Reports

Charity Report

Nancy Strohmer

No report.

I/N /Future Life Masters

Kathy McDougall/ Greg May

Kathy McDougall noted that the 199r games have been very successful with nine tables at the last game.

Greg May stated that the FLM weekly game has done well with 331 tables so far; no games have been missed and the numbers are growing. Greg stated that the efforts of Mary Ellen Vail have made the program successful and that she is to be commended for all of her hard work and commitment.



Education**Kathy McDougall**

Kathy McDougal mentioned the education programs through the ACBL which Robert Todd has been working on and that Joyce Ryan has committed to teaching classes through the ACBL program.

New Member Recruitment**Charles Dalton**

Charles presented an extensive written report to the Board. Kathy McDougall mentioned Bridge Wiz as highly successful, and suggested additional outreach to places such as the YMCA, neighborhood clubs, retired teacher groups, Exxon Mobile, Junior League. Greg mentioned FLM174.org is a place where people can find teachers and many other resources and potential members should be referred to that website. Byron Fackenthall volunteered to work on a taskforce for member recruitment and stated that Connie Conover would be a good person to contact for ideas on recruitment. Betty Starzac stated that she will speak to the ACBL concerning the list of people who have temporary memberships in the ACBL or who have made initial contacts with the ACBL. That list may be a good resource for recruiting new members.

Unit Newsletter

Action Item: Jeanne Phelps will be resigning as the editor of the Unit Newsletter. Nancy Strohmer stated that a mention of the need for volunteers to be the next editor should be made on the website.

Publicity

No report

Supplies**Clif Rice**

Clif is looking for a new warehouse but will finish after the October Sectional.

Website & Information

No report

STAC (U174)**Karen Naussbaum**

No report

GNT and NAP

The travel stipends have not gone out to the winners as yet.

Awards**Karen Nussbaum**

Plaques have been ordered for new life masters.



August Sectional

Greg May/John DuBose

Greg May thanked all the board members for their help and especially Karen Nussbaum for doing such a great job on the food.

Table counts for April were 49% of 2019; for Early Summer 41% of 2019, and for August 47% of 2019. Greg had projected 43% so he was pleased that 47% had been achieved. He opined that the April table counts would be relevant for October. The DIC reports are in Box.

\$400 was spent on coffee and soda and two people were paid \$160 to serve it and collect the money. Greg reported that Thomas Rush had stated to him that it may be cheaper to give away the coffee and soda. Karen Nussbaum went through the number of cups of coffee sold and sodas sold and was curious as to why we had not made money on that enterprise.

Live for Clubs had a system crash and players were disappointed not to get their results. People complained that there was not enough time for lunch and also complained about tear down noise during the last session on Sunday. Action Item: Players need to be reminded to make comments in the suggestion box so we can address them and perhaps we can send a survey following the tournament.

Charlie Dalton stated that there are still problems with the sound system and suggested that the featured speaker could speak in the other room for better sound quality. It was agreed that attendance would not be good if the speaker were disenfranchised from the main room.

The ACBL still requires the Covid desk.

October Sectional

Clif Rice/Sarah Springer

Before addressing the upcoming Halloween Sectional, Clif Rice discussed the issues we face with the October 2023 Sectional in Galveston. The contract with Moody Gardens was signed in 2021 and guaranteed 200 room nights and \$15,000 in food. Clif believes we will not be able to meet these minimums. There will be a 10% fee or \$500 for the cancellation of this contract. It was discussed that there should be advertising for this tournament now to get people excited about the tournament and getting them to reserve early. The 2019 tournament was "break even."

For the upcoming 2022 Halloween Sectional, the Chairs have been lined up. We are expecting a table count of 303, and expecting a \$4500 loss with income down based on the table count.

Clif presented the budget and after discussion four changes were made to the budget, i.e. the cost of the bridge pads, the table count, the cost of the Sunday lunches, and \$250 for supplies net of coffee/sodas. Clif asked for the Board to approve the budget.

Motion made by Nancy Strohmer to approve the budget as presented with the four changes, all were in favor. **Motion Carried.**



Further discussion was had about collecting the cash box each day, and having the 299rs receive a free play for one Sunday session rather than discounts for Friday and Saturday. Attendees buying two sessions on Sunday would get a ticket for lunch. Rules for the costume contest need to be addressed.

Greg May made a **Motion** that Clif Rice and Sarah Springer have the authority of the Board to make decisions concerning the management of the Halloween Sectional and all were in favor. **Motion Carried.**

Houston Regional

Thomas Rush/Karen Nussbaum

Betty Starzac expects 58% attendance for the Lone Star Regional. The LSR in January will have night games as did the January 2022 Regional.

Nominations Committee

No report.

Board Meetings

No report.

Next Board Meeting

Kathy McDougall

October 3, 2022 at 9:15 AM, Tracy Gee.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Springer, Unit 174 Secretary

