

Texas Regional Conference
District 16
Minutes from February 10, 2001
Houston, Texas
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President Scott Humphrey called the meeting to order at 10:05.

Voting members present: Richard Kiepfer (Unit 172), Lu Edwards (Unit 174), Charlie Price (Unit 176), Tom Hughes (Unit 183), Martha DeCou (Unit 187), Carol Schoenals (Unit 197), Judy McDonald (Unit 205), Larry Davis (Unit 207), Rick Perry (Unit 209), Tom Corlett (Unit 233), Ross Robbins (Unit 273), Kathleen Brown (Unit 353).

Guests and Committee Members present: Scott Humphrey, Cindy Snider, Dan Morse, Dewitt Hudson, Betty Starzec, Jerry Heckman, Eric Snow, John Zilic, Guillermo Poplawsky, Tom Whitesides, Sandy Campbell, Al Lochli, Louallen Leach, Jacque Tucker.

The minutes from the September 2, 2000, meeting in Fort Worth were approved with corrections to the spelling of Mary Hoger and George Rosenkrantz.

The election of the Officers for the 2001-2002 term was held. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

President - Tom Hughes
Vice President - Lu Edwards
Secretary - Ross Robbins
Treasurer - Carol Schoenals
Executive Treasurer - Tom Hughes
Executive Secretary - Cindy Snider

Tom Hughes presented the Executive Treasurer's report. He reported a balance of \$15,300. He has paid the several annual fees recently such as the tax return preparation of \$500, the Internet bill of \$250 and the Insurance bill of \$840.

The Board then held an election for the District 16 Board of Governors representative to replace the position that Jacque Tucker held. Richard Kiepfer's resume was reviewed and he was approved unanimously as the sole candidate. led

Committee Reports:

Appellate - Scott Humphrey reported that all was quiet.

Awards - Cindy Snider reported on behalf of Howard Wilkins that nine Texas Star Awards were to be presented at the beginning of the evening session.

Charity - Carol Schoenals reported that the Charity for the year is the American Parkinson Disease Association.

Grand National Teams - Lu Edwards and Sandy Cambell reported that four Units had not filed for sanctions as follows: Mexico, Magic Valley, Central Texas Permian Basin and Witchita Falls. The Co-Chairs recommend and made a motion that a \$500 per team award be given to the winners for all flights other than the Championship flight. The motion was seconded by Betty Starzec and carried unanimously.

Education and Membership - Betty Starzec reported that we are experiencing a retention rate of 49%. This means that of the people that join the ACBL - 49% will renew their membership after the first year. Betty also stated that the Audrey Grant visit was a success although most of the attendees were from Houston. Betty also expressed a desire to have Tom Hughes appoint another Education and Membership Committee Chair. She has enjoyed serving the District over the past several years. She noted that perhaps Joe Quinn or Kathleen Brown would be interested.

Mexico Regional - Judy McDonald reported that Puerto Vallarta had a \$4,300 profit and she is ready and looking forward to a successful tournament in Guadalajara in May of 2001. The District will receive \$1,500 from that tournament.

Internet - Al Lochli reported that all is well with the Internet. Anything that the member believed should be posted can be e-mailed directly to Al.

North American Pairs - John Zilic presented a NAP report that graded each of the Units on their timeliness of filing for a sanction and of reporting results. All Unit representatives were urged to go back to their Units and stress the importance of timely filings. Larry Davis reported that Austin lost in excess of \$1,000 and that a bill would be submitted to Tom Hughes for reimbursement by the District.

Disciplinary - Louallen Leach reported that she travels across the country and that the Directors in District 16 are to be commended for keeping the discipline issues to a minimum.

Scorecard - Toni Snow reported that all is well.

STAC - Tom Whitesides reported that all is well.

Board of Governors - DeWitt Hudson reported that Donald Mamula had been elected the new Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Tournament Committee - Charlie Price reported that his committee met to discuss the possibility of granting Kerrville a sanction to have a split regional with Beaumont. His committee focused on three issues. First, what is Beaumont's position related to this idea? Second, will San Antonio commit to absorbing the loss if there is one? Third, is this setting a president? Richard Kieper distributed a presentation a package prepared by

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the Kerrville Chamber of Commerce on the attractions in Kerrville. It was decided that the executive committee would vote on this issue after there was more discussion with Beaumont and San Antonio unit boards.

Old Business:

Update on the Houston Nationals - Eric Snow reported that there is \$65,000 in the bank and that the Unit has contributed \$20,000 toward the spring 2002 Nationals. Several people are also selling raffle tickets to win free entries to the Nationals. This prize was donated by Marie Bailey. There will be a Calcutta held for the Dawkins National Mixed Pairs on March 10, 2001. We need to raise \$5,000 to name a National event.

Update on the Texas State Championships - Eric Snow reported that this is an opportunity for publicity for each city and for bridge. The finals will be held in Austin in September of 2001. Eric also reported that there is a Youth Division for those under 26 years of age.

Ross Robbins reported that he believes that there should be an 800# in the valley for the "Winter Texans" to use to find out the time and place of bridge games. Betty Starzec mentioned that the ACBL has funded an 800# for Education and she would be happy to refer callers to the correct place should they have game time and location questions. She also mentioned that the ACBL would reimburse 50% of advertising in the yellow pages should the local Unit decide to do so. Ross also invited everyone to South Padre Island for the split Regional October 15-21.

New Business:

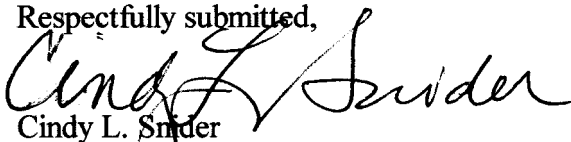
Richard Kiepher presented a list of by-law amendments that he is submitting to "clean up" the by-laws. These were passed out to be reviewed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

District Director Report:

Dan Morse reported that the "good news" is that the ACBL sold the building that had been on the market for five years. The "bad news" is that District 16 has fallen to # 3 in membership count. Membership in the ACBL overall is up 4% and in District 16 it is down 2%. District 17 (Las Vegas) is quickly catching District 16. Dan also noted that the senior trails would be held in August 2001 in St. Louis. The ACBL is taking applications for a new travel agency. The applications must be submitted by March 1, 2001.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Cindy L. Snider
Executive Secretary
District 16