

**American Contract Bridge League District 16
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held February 4, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Marriott Houston Westchase Hotel in Houston, Texas at 8:00 a.m. on February 4, 2012.

Board members present (Units represented in parentheses): Ira Hessel (172), Guillermo Poplawsky (173), Bert Onstott (174), Bob Butterfield (176), Carolyn Pinto (183), Martha De Cou ((187), Sally Blewett (201), Corinne Nelson (205), Larry Davis (207), Jo Smith (224), David Pennington (233) and Johnny Johnson (237).

Committee Chairs and others present: Dewitt Hudson (President and District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors), Betty Starzec (District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors), James Thurtell (Disciplinary Committee Chair and Grand National Teams Coordinator), Melody Euler (North American Pairs Coordinator), Bob Dowlen (Unit 174), and Linda Aaron (Unit 209).

President Dewitt Hudson called the meeting to order.

Election of Officers: The following persons were elected as the District's officers for the next year:

President: Bert Onstott

First Vice president: Jo Smith

Second Vice President: Johnny Johnson

Executive Secretary: Bob Butterfield

Executive Treasurer: Lew Levy

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Board held September 3, 2011 were approved as presented to the meeting.

District Director: Dewitt Hudson, on behalf of Dan Morse, reported that Sharon Anderson, the new President of the ACBL, plans to try to get to know as many members as possible and to work on community relations. He also noted that masterpoints earned

playing bridge online now count fully toward attaining membership levels, and that Units may now have unlimited Sectional tournaments to the extent that they can obtain sanctions.

Executive Treasurer: The Executive Treasurer's Report submitted by Lew Levy, including the District's Profit and Loss Statement for the 12 months ended December 31, 2011, and its Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2011, was reviewed by the Board. The Report noted that (i) the Profit and Loss Statement shows an excess of revenues over expenses of \$7,052, compared to the prior year's excess of \$15,630, (ii) the primary reason for the smaller excess in 2011 was the decreased profitability of the Puerto Vallarta Regional due to decreased attendance and the extra Regional held in 2010 which offset the positive cash flow from the Scorecard after it had been running a deficit for many years, (iii) the District subsidy to Grand National Teams winners continues to exceed GNT revenues as a result of the increase in the subsidy from \$4,000 to \$6,000, (iv) the balance sheet shows that the District's financial position is stable and (v) the reserve established for the next District NABC event is now \$12,150. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Education: Paul Cuneo reported that the District spent \$500 on the TAPS course held at the San Antonio Regional held in July, which attracted 17 students, and \$100 on buttons for teachers distributed at the Corpus Christi Regional. He noted that Mike Lawrence will teach lessons in Houston in February. He also reported that the buy one/get one free voucher program implemented for the Houston Regional this year resulted in 57 vouchers being issued and 18 being redeemed. After discussion, a \$1,000 budget was approved for education programs conducted this year that are approved by the Chair of the Education Committee.

Grand National Teams: Jim Thurtell reported that sanctions have been obtained for the Grand National Teams District finals this year. The Flight A finals will be held March 31-April 1 and the Flights B and C finals will be held May 26-28.

Membership: Bert Onstott reported that total District membership increased by 43 during 2011. He also noted that membership goals from Units 172, 174, 183 and 197 have been posted on the District's website. He requested that all Units work on their growth goals and their action plans to achieve their goals.

North American Pairs: Melody Euler reported that the District NAP finals have been concluded. They went well and the number of participants increased over last year. She checked and confirmed that all pairs playing in the District finals this year had qualified at the club and Unit levels. Melody next suggested that the District subsidy levels for the NAPs be reconsidered. After discussion, the following subsidies were approved, to replace those that were most recently approved. For each of Flights A, B, and C, the District will pay (i) to the pairs who finish first in the District finals, \$100 per person, (ii) to the pairs that finish second, \$200 per person, and to the pairs that finish third, \$300 per person. In addition, if the District gets any at large places, the District will pay \$100 to each person in the pairs who win those places. All such payments are contingent on the

winning pairs actually competing in the national NAP finals. These District subsidies are in addition to the subsidies these pairs will be entitled to receive from the ACBL, which are currently \$700 per person for the first place winners in each flight and \$300 per person for the second place winners in each flight.

Publicity: Sally Blewett reported that she is working with the Membership and Education Committees to get the word out on the District's activities in those areas.

Scorecard: Ira Hessell reported that the quality of the paper used for the Scorecard has been improved. He also stated that he is working to get the Scorecard posted on the District's website.

Mexico Regional: Norinne Nelson stated that attendance was down at the Puerto Vallarta Regional held last year, primarily because of adverse publicity regarding Mexico and the fact that the Corpus Christi Regional was held the week before the Puerto Vallarta Regional.

Board of Governors: Dewitt Hudson stated that there is currently no vacancy in the District's Board of Governors positions. The recent announcement in the Scorecard stating that there was a vacancy was in error.

2012 Budget: The proposed budget for the District for 2012 was presented, reviewed and discussed. After suggested changes were made, the budget was approved. It contemplates that the District will operate at a small surplus this year.

Bert Onstott stated that consideration is being given to having the District buy a dealing machine and make it available to District Units (for a small charge) for use at tournaments. It was noted that the use of the dealing machine, which produces pre-dealt hands, saves about 15 minutes per session. Bert requested that the Unit representatives report whether their Units would be interested in using the dealing machine if one is purchased by the District.

Bert Onstott recognized and commended Unit 174 for the excellent work done in putting on the Houston Regional.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.