

Texas Regional Conference
District 16
Minutes from July 7, 2001
San Antonio, Texas
DRAFT

Call to Order:

President Tom Hughes called the meeting to order at 10:10 and the determination that a quorum was present was made.

Voting Members present: Tom Hughes (Unit 183), Carol Schoenhals (Unit 197), Howard Wilkins (Unit 224), Judy McDonald (Unit 205), Charlie Price (Unit 176), Lu Edwards (Unit 174), Tom Corlett (Unit 233), Larry Davis (Unit 207), Richard Kieffer (Unit 172).

Guests and Committee Members present: Cindy Snider, Dewitt Hudson, Toni Snow, Eric Snow, Tom Whitesides, Guillermo Poplawsky, Sandy Campbell, Louallen Leach, Penny Snow, John Watkins, Albert Lochli, Mary Tryor and Chris Compton.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the February 10, 2001, meeting in Houston were approved as corrected. The corrections are the use of the word "reviewed" as opposed to "review" in the last sentence before the Committee reports, the correction of the Charity for the year being the Alzheimer's Association and lastly, in the Tournament Committee paragraph the spelling of the word "precedent."

Executive Treasurer's Report:

The Executive Treasurer reported that the District has approximately \$18,000. The detail check register was attached to the copy of the February minutes for review. More information was needed related to the Scorecard Account for completion of the 2000 tax return. George Olivarri will be working with Donna Compton to obtain the necessary information.

District Director's Report:

Dan Morse, District 16 Director, introduced the ACBL President Jim Kirkham. Mr. Kirkham gave a brief overview of the ACBL activities year-to-date and thanked the volunteers for a great tournament. All volunteers were invited to Mr. Kirkham's suite for a drink after the evening session.

Dan Morse reported that ACBL membership is beginning an upward trend with Easy Bridge contributing to the increase. Both tournaments and STaC's have experienced increased participation this year.

District 16 has two representatives on the U. S. Bridge Federation, Dan Morse and Shawn Quinn. The U. S. Bridge Federation is working on getting Bridge into the Olympics.

Bridge will be a demonstration sport in Salt Lake City one week before the Olympics begin.

Dan encouraged everyone to work on getting the publicity and media coverage for the Texas State Championships qualification rounds. This event was especially designed to improve publicity of bridge and to get city-wide coverage of the winners in each city.

Committee Reports:

Appellate – Louallen reported in Scott’s absence that all is well.

Awards – Howard reported on the Jacoby Service Award and the Texas Star. There was some discussion as to the timing of the Texas Star Award deadline this year as the Houston Regional is moving to the second week in January. Accordingly, the Texas Star applications will have to be received earlier than January 1.

Charity – Carol reported that the District 16 Charity game will be November 5th.

Grand National Teams – Lu and Sandy reported that the GNT’s in May generated approximately \$1,900 for the District and that there were approximately 700 tables in play.

Education and Membership- President Hughes asked the board to think about a potential replacement for Betty Starzec as the Education and Membership Committee Chair. Sandy Campbell volunteered her husband Hugh.

Mexico Regional – Judy McDonald reported on the success of the Guadalajara Tournament. The \$1,500 check was given to Tom Hughes for deposit. Judy stated that the October timing is preferred and that the 2002 tournament dates begin the week of October 20, 2002.

Internet – Al Lochli reported that the Club information is difficult to keep accurate and current and therefore cannot be maintained on the District website. The Unit’s will have to keep up with the Club level detail. He also reported that the ACBL hired a professional website developer and the ACBL website has improved substantially.

Al was asked to make certain the GalleryFurniture.com logo was on the District webpage and to help promote using the logo on the Unit web pages.

North American Pairs – No report. It was noted that there is no change in the flight limits for this year.

Tournament Committee – Charlie Price reported that Beaumont will not be split with Kerrville. However, he was hopeful that Kerrville could possibly be included as one of the host cities of the rotating regional on a “one-time-only” basis.

Disciplinary Committee – Louallen reported that “bridge players say and do the darnedest things.” She also recommended that all Units begin taping any committee hearings that are held.

Scorecard – Toni Snow reported that the Scorecard is going great. However, any complaints and or comments should be directed to Toni and not Donna. In addition, she mentioned that the digital pictures turn out better in the Scorecard than Polaroid pictures.

STaC/Tournament – Tom Whitesides reported that District 16 hosted another successful STaC tournament. Our tournament has maintained fees of \$4 per table for the last seven years. This year the tournament made \$350. Next years tournament is scheduled for May 13-19, 2002.

Board of Governors Report – Dewitt Hudson reported that he has been appointed the Education and Membership Chairman on the Board of Governors.

Old Business:

Update on Houston Nationals – The Houston National planning committee is working hard and moving along well. They have obtained GalleryFurniture.com as the title sponsor. GalleryFurniture.com will provide \$50,000 as the title sponsor. The committee has decided that \$10,000 will be used for a Junior Day Scholarship and that \$10,000 will be used to promote the scholarships. The remaining \$30,000 will be used for hospitality after the games. Eric Snow shared that this sponsorship was obtained primarily through the efforts of Marsha Bernstein and Shawn Quinn.

Toni Snow mentioned that she is trying to contact Paul Burka from the Texas Monthly magazine. This is a great time to start promoting the tournament and the City Championships. Judy McDonald noted that if an article could be written by the committee and then submitted to the news media we might have a greater chance of getting the news coverage we are seeking.

Units are encouraged to buy events at the Houston National. Regional events are \$250 for the day.

Dawkins Mixed Pairs – Good progress is being made toward raising the \$5,000 needed to name the National Mixed Pair event the “Dawkins Mixed Pairs.” Approximately \$3,000 has been raised through the efforts of several Units.

Texas State Championships – Eric Snow reported that the finals will be held September 29, 2002, at the Chariot Inn in Austin. He also noted that there is nothing in the conditions of contest to prevent stratification at the Unit level. However, only one team will be permitted to represent the Unit at the State Competition. This format was selected to avoid diluting the media coverage. Hopefully, we can get the city Mayors to present the awards.

Proposed By-Law Changes – Cindy Snider reported that she asked Chris Compton if he would review the proposed By-Law changes. She did not believe that we were prepared to discuss the implications of the proposed changes at this time. The changes will be sent to Chris and he will review them for the September meeting.

New Business:

Election of Board of Governors Representative – Due to some mishaps with e-mail, Richard Kiepfer's Board of Governors declaration was not received on time. Accordingly, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that Richard Kiepfer is elected as one of District 16's Board of Governor Representatives.

Other – John Watkins, President of Unit 172, reported that the Unit has an issue with the Houston STaC being scheduled at the same time as the New Braunfels Sectional. He requested that the STaC be rescheduled or he suggested that Houston could compensate San Antonio based on the loss of tables that Unit 172 would experience. Tom Whitesides reported that he did not consider this a conflict. Charlie Price, Tournament Scheduling Chairman for the District, mentioned that the STaC has not been considered in the mileage calculations for tournaments held to close to one another.

Lu Edwards noted that Houston would not be opposed to compensating San Antonio, on a one time basis, if the table count is less that last year.

It was concluded that both tournaments will occur. However, based on the number of tables lost from the Houston Unit compared with last year, the Houston Unit will reimburse the San Antonio a percentage of the net loss. Both Units will work out the number and both Units agreed to arbitration at the District level if the number cannot be determined.

Eric Snow moved to thank San Antonio for hosting a terrific tournament.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy L. Snider
Executive Secretary
District 16