

**American Contract Bridge League District 16
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held July 3, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin, Texas at 10 a.m. on July 3, 2010.

Board members present (Units represented in parentheses): Ira Hessel (172), Guillermo Poplawsky (173), Bert Onstott (174), Bob Butterfield (176), Steve Shirey (183), Carol Schoenhals (197), Sally Blewett (201), Larry Davis (207), Gay Roach (225) and David Pennington (233).

Committee Chairs and others present: Charles Price (President and Tournament Committee Chair), Dan Morse (District representative to the ACBL Board of Directors), Dewitt Hudson and Michael Heyman (District Representatives to the ACBL Board of Governors), James Thurtell (Disciplinary Committee Chair), Paul Cuneo (Education Committee Chair), Jim Bauer (Grand National Teams Committee Chair), Melody Euler (North American Pairs Committee Chair), David Wilson (Unit 187), Steve Penning (Unit 205) and Pat Ramsey (Unit 224).

President Charles Price called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Board held February 6, 2010, were approved as presented to the meeting.

District Director: Dan Morse reported that the new ACBL headquarters building and museum in Horn Lake, Mississippi is now open. He also reported that District 16 will get an additional Regional tournament in 2012 because our membership exceeded 9,000 on June 1, 2010.

Executive Treasurer: Bert Onstott presented the District Treasurer's Report on behalf of Lew Levy. The report included the District's Profit and Loss Statement for the period January 1 through June 16, 2010, and its Balance Sheet as of June 16, 2010. It noted that (i) revenues continued to exceed expenses by about \$1000 per month and (ii) the total assets of the District exceeded its total liabilities by \$41,301 at the end of the period. It also noted that the Puerto Vallarta Regional results are now being reported on a real-time basis, so they won't be included in the profit and loss results until year-end. Further, the report noted that the Saturday surcharges collected at District 16 Regional tournaments are being accumulated in a reserve account called "NABC Surcharge". This report was approved.

Charity: Carol Schoenhals reported that the District had donated the \$10,000 received from the ACBL to benefit Haiti refugees through the Red Cross as approved by the Board at its last meeting.

Membership: Bert Onstott reported that, 20 years ago, the District's membership was nearly 11,000, compared with the current total of approximately 9,000. Many of our Units have had substantial declines in membership, while others haven't. He stated that we need concrete action plans to boost our membership.

Education: Paul Cuneo noted that there were 20 enrollees at the Teacher Accreditation Course held at the Austin Regional. He suggested that appreciation events be considered to recognize bridge teachers.

Grand National Teams: Jim Bauer announced the winners of the District GNT finals for this year. He then discussed proposed amendments to the Conditions of Contest for the GNTs. After discussion, it was requested that he revise the proposed amendments to make them less restrictive, after which the Board will reconsider them. Next, the District fee schedule for the GNTs was discussed. Jim reported that there is some confusion as to the proper amount of fees that should be paid by Units holding Unit-level and District-level GNT games. After discussion, Jim was requested to review certain additional matters bearing on this issue and to report back to the Board at its next meeting. Also, the amount of the subsidy to be paid this year by the District to its winning GNT teams who compete in the GNT finals at the Summer NABC was considered, and a subsidy of \$1,000 per team was approved.

Internet: Bert Onstott noted that Tom Whitesides forwards approved tournament sanctions to Bert, who then posts them promptly on the District website. This information should help Units in planning future tournaments. He also discussed the Yahoo Group that has been created to facilitate communications among District directors, officers, committee chairmen and other key personnel, and encouraged all such persons who have not yet joined the Group to do so.

Long Range Planning: President Charles Price had requested several committee chairs to develop action plans dealing with their areas for consideration by the Board in developing a long range plan for the District. Sally Blewett suggested several action plans that could be pursued by the District to help recruit and retain members, and distributed a handout detailing the proposed plans. The plans included strategies to (i) improve conditions and the atmosphere in playing areas, (ii) provide bridge education for all players and (iii) market duplicate bridge. Bert Onstott stated that we need concrete action plans to boost our membership. He suggested that Units: (i) hold events for social bridge players to expose them to the benefits of duplicate games, (ii) call and welcome new members and members transferring into their Unit, (iii) call non-renewals to encourage them to renew and (iv) hold mentor/mentee games (and subsidize the clubs that hold them). Jim Thurtell stated that we need to recruit, retain and educate members and suggested that Units focus on 50+ year-olds getting ready to retire and persons playing at

community and senior centers. Other committee chairs were encouraged to develop proposed action plans dealing with their areas for consideration by the Board.

North American Pairs: Melody Euler stated that 16 of our Units have set the dates for their Unit NAP finals. She also noted that the District NAP finals will be held in Austin on January 8 and 9, 2011.

Mexico: Steve Penning stated that preparations for this year's Puerto Vallarta Regional are proceeding on schedule. He noted that this year the schedule has been revised to move the starting time of the games up by one-half hour.

Scorecard: Ira Hessel noted that, historically, the Scorecard has lost approximately \$1,000 per issue, but that the total loss for the last three issues was less than \$2,000. He also noted that he is trying to keep the size of the Scorecard to 16 pages to reduce costs. Further, he noted that the Scorecard is being posted on the District website as soon as its ready to go to the printer.

Board of Governors Report: DeWitt Hudson reported that Aileen Osofsky, the Chair of the ACBL's Goodwill Committee for the last 25 years, recently died. He also reported that (i) a new game will be held at an upcoming NABC that will be limited to players who are at least 70 years old and (ii) the ACBL will be increasing its supervision of charity funds collected in sanctioned games.

Proposed Austin NLM Regional: Larry Davis presented a proposal, on behalf of Unit 207, that the District agree to certain financial accommodations (including a waiver of fees that would otherwise be due to the District with respect to the tournament) in the event that Unit 207 lost money in putting on a proposed Non-Life-Master Regional tournament. After discussion, the Board voted not to approve the proposal.

Gay Roach reminded everyone about the upcoming Tyler Regional being held November 15-21.

Charles Price recognized and commended Unit 207 for the excellent work done in putting on the Austin Regional.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.