

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League

July 8, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in the Colonnade C conference room on the 20th floor of the San Antonio Omni Hotel at 9821 Colonnade Boulevard on July 8, 2017. In attendance were:

Executive Officers

Rebecca Brown	1 st Vice President
Nancy Strohmer	2 nd Vice President, Charity Coordinator
Dan Leightman	Executive Treasurer
David Pearlman	Executive Secretary

Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)

Rebecca Brown	Unit 172
Nancy Strohmer	Unit 174
Mark Bumgardner (alternate for Tomi Storey)	Unit 176
Steve Shirey	Unit 183
David Ticen	Unit 187
Howie Huynh	Unit 197
Carolyn Worsham	Unit 201
Neal Perlman	Unit 204
Larry Davis	Unit 207
Gay Roach	Unit 225
Lynn Sykes	Unit 233

Non-Voting Board Members

Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Directors

Paul Cuneo, Director

Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Governors

Betty Starzec, Representative
DeWitt Hudson, Representative

Committee Chairs

Jim Thurtell	Disciplinary
Paul Cuneo	Education
Laura Delfeld	Intermediate/Novice

Standing Positions

BJ Sanders GNT Coordinator

Others

Steven Kornegay Unit 183
Nancy Boyd ACBL Field Manager

Call to Order and Quorum

First Vice President Brown chaired the meeting in the absence of President Storey. She called the meeting to order at 7:52 a.m. and determined that a quorum was present.

Ms. Brown welcomed guests Nancy Boyd, ACBL Field Manager, and Steve Kornegay (of Unit 183), a candidate for District 16's position on the ACBL Board of Directors.

Upcoming Election for D16's Director on ACBL Board of Directors

Ms. Brown noted that Messrs. Cuneo and Kornegay would be candidates for the District's Director on the ACBL Board of Directors.

Mr. Kornegay took the floor and provided biographical information about himself and informed the Board that he would be sending an email out to the Board members detailing his vision for ACBL.

Mr. Cuneo then took the floor, noted his experience in bridge administration, and offered his thoughts on several issues of importance at ACBL.

Election of Treasurer

Ms. Brown noted that Dan Leightman had been appointed Treasurer on an interim basis effective April 1, and that pursuant to the Bylaws, the appointment expired at the beginning of the meeting, necessitating an election by the Board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously elected Mr. Leightman as Treasurer.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Ms. Brown noted that Mr. Leightman had furnished a mid-year Treasurer's report. Mr. Leightman offered that apparently the District would operate within its budget for 2017. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board accepted the report unanimously.

Ms. Brown noted that, subject to certain corrections to the minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2017, the remainder of the consent agenda could be approved. On that

basis, and after the motion was duly made and seconded, the remainder of the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

ACBL Report

Mr. Cuneo noted the transition of the ACBL CEO position from Robert Hartman to Bahar Gidwani, an entrepreneur who founded two companies and holds a Harvard M.B.A. The appointment was met with enthusiastic approval from the Board of Directors.

Mr. Cuneo reported that under current President Bob Heller, the ACBL Board is taking a more active role between board meetings, and that Mr. Cuneo is involved in two major task forces, one concerned with an overall decline in tournament attendance and the other concerned with how to best assist clubs in their growth efforts.

Mr. Cuneo noted that two groups in particular are not attending tournaments in proportion to their numbers: the intermediate/novice contingent (many of whom consider the revised requirements for Life Master to be unachievable) and individuals with 1500 to 2000 master points. He stated that he believes the ACBL Board should address the needs of the intermediate/novice contingent at its meeting in November.

Mr. Cuneo reported that the clubs task force considered adopting a franchise model for ACBL but will not pursue it due to attendant compliance and legal costs.

Mr. Cuneo also informed the Board that the Code of Disciplinary Regulations is undergoing a rewrite as are the Convention Charts.

Mr. Cuneo noted that his written report on ACBL matters had not found its way into the Board package and said that he would send it out by email.

Mr. Cuneo also requested that the Board renew the Robly contract. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the renewal. Finally, he asked if anyone would object to his using the Robly software to send out periodic updates on ACBL issues. Hearing no objections, he said he would do so.

Scorecard

Ms. Brown reported on a request by Unit 176 to have members opt in to receive the print version of the Scorecard. Mr. Bumgardner stated that the cost of the Scorecard is 20% of the overall cost of operating Unit 176.

Ms. Brown noted that a District task force had looked at Scorecard expense issues in 2016. She noted that diminishing the print run could increase the per-unit cost of the Scorecard, and that the District subsidizes a portion of the cost. Responding to a question from Mr. Ticen, she stated that there is a link to the Scorecard from the District website's home page, and that some Units incorporate this link into their sites as well.

Mr. Perlman suggested that perhaps Units could be enabled to each take their own approach to deciding whether to send the print version to all members, to only to those who opt in, or to those who choose not to opt out.

Ms. Brown noted that the District needs to evaluate how permitting a Unit by Unit choice to opt-out of the print version would affect the total print cost for each run.

Ms. Starzec stated that the purchasers of Scorecard announcements should be contacted in advance of any changes.

Ms. Boyd offered that all these issues and more had been researched and analyzed by Districts 17, 21, and 22. At the request of Ms. Brown, Mr. Bumgardner said he would contact them to gather information to present at the Board's next meeting.

Ms. Brown said further that she would submit the run cost questions and the potential impact on announcers to the Scorecard Committee.

Grand National Teams

BJ Sanders of Unit 207, the District's new GNT Coordinator, reported on a number of issues.

First was the possibility of holding qualifiers at clubs, in addition to the current Unit qualifiers, as a way to boost participation at the local and District levels. Mr. Thurtell noted that this approach works well for the North American Pairs. Responding to Mr. Ticen, Ms. Sanders noted that participants would now have multiple opportunities to qualify for the District finals.

Second was the language needed to revise the Conditions of Contest to reflect the proposed addition of club qualifying events. Mr. Cuneo and Ms. Brown noted some changes that would need to be made to the draft Conditions of Contest in the meeting package.

Third was the possibility of not holding all District-level qualifiers simultaneously. Mr. Bumgardner suggested that holding the Superflight and Flight B qualifiers on one weekend, and holding the Flight A and C qualifiers on a different weekend would offer many participants the chance to play in two District-level qualifiers, as many teams like to play up one level without having to forego their own qualifier.

After discussion of all these issues, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board decided unanimously to approve the initiation of club-level qualifiers effective September 1. At its next meeting the Board will examine corrections to the revisions to the Conditions of Contest and the issue of whether to split the District-level qualifiers as suggested by Mr. Bumgardner.

Ms. Strohmer informed the Board that Houston's 2018 spring sectional, at which GNT finals are currently scheduled to be held, has been moved from its April dates to the first weekend in May.

Non-Life Master Regionals

Mr. Davis reported that San Antonio's NLM Regional had been a success, and that one was scheduled for Austin. Ms. Brown noted that San Antonio has a sanction for one in 2018 and Mr. Cuneo informed the Board that the District can have up to three in any calendar year.

Ms. Worsham noted that Lake Charles is combining their NLM Regional with an open sectional. Ms. Boyd reported that this is a common practice and has been shown to improve attendance at both events.

Other Business

Mr. Perlman reported that Unit 204 was considering combining purchasing power for the purchase of new BridgePads. Ms. Boyd informed him that BridgePad is no longer selling new equipment in the U.S.

Mr. Bumgardner asked if the new ACBL Score software would be compatible with all electronic scoring systems and Mr. Cuneo assured him it would.

Ms. Starzec reported that ACBL has created a task force to coordinate the activities of clubs and teachers. She noted that District 11 had held a roundtable to discuss related issues and requested an authorization to spend up to \$500 to hold one for District 16. Upon motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously approved the request.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pearlman
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16