

**DRAFT: January 14, 2013**

**American Contract Bridge League District 16  
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held September 1, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Hyatt Regency DFW Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas at 9:30 a.m. on September 1, 2012.

**Board members present** (Units represented in parentheses): Ira Hessel (172), Bert Onstott (174), Tomi Fitzgerald (176), Carolyn Pinto (183), Carol Schoenhals (197), Sally Blewett (201), Neal Perlman (204), Larry Davis (207), Jo Smith (224), and Gay Roach (225).

**Committee Chairs and others present:** Dan Morse (District representative to the ACBL Board of Directors), Dewitt Hudson (District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors), James Thurtell (Disciplinary Committee Chair and Grand National Teams Coordinator), Charles Price (Tournaments Committee Chair), Jonathan Ernest (Appelate Committee Chair), Melody Euler (North American Pairs Coordinator), and Scott Humphrey (Awards Committee Chair and Tournament Sanctions Coordinator).

President Bert Onstott called the meeting to order. Tomi FitzGerald, Acting Secretary, determined that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of the Board held July 7, 2012 were approved as presented to the meeting.

**Election of Officer:** Bert Onstott noted that Johnny Johnson has resigned as Second Vice President of the District, and that the Board needed to elect his replacement. Jim Thurtell and Ira Hessel were nominated. After written ballots were cast and counted, Bert announced that Jim Thurtell had been elected.

**District Director:** Dan Morse reported that the ACBL has presented a new vision and mission statement. Also, a Grass Roots Fund has been established to be used for GNT and NAP programs. During the month of December, games awarding bonus masterpoints will be held to raise money for this fund. The ACBL has recommended that each Unit have a Volunteer Chair to coordinate volunteer participation in Unit affairs. Dan noted that co-operative advertising funds offered by the ACBL are not being utilized, and urged Units to take advantage of this opportunity. Also, Units were reminded that the ACBL provides free email blasts to its members to promote upcoming tournaments. The ACBL is encouraging all Units and Districts to use its electronic reporting system. It expects that

the system will be 100% operational by next year. In addition, assuming it is approved by the ACBL Board, electronic voting in ACBL elections will be available. Dan stated that he is serving on the ACBL's Handicapped Events Committee. The Committee is working on a system that will seek to unify handicapping from Unit to Unit. Finally, Dan requested that all Units submit nominations for volunteer of the year.

**Awards:** Scott Humphrey stated that nominations for the Oswald Jacoby, Texas Star and Goodwill awards need to be submitted no later than December 31. He noted that each Unit may make nominations for two Goodwill awards and one Texas Star award (which may be awarded to a couple).

**Charity:** Carol Schoenhals reported that a District-wide charity game will be held October 10, a change from the previously scheduled date of October 16.

**STaCs:** Tomi FitzGerald reported that the District STaC games next year are scheduled to be held May 6-12, 2013, subject to approval of those dates.

**North American Pairs:** Melody Euler reported that the participation in this year's NAP games is running at the same level as last year.

**Publicity:** Sally Blewett urged Units to utilize the co-operative advertising funds being offered by the ACBL.

**Tournaments:** Charles Price presented the report of the committee established at the last meeting to create guidelines for tournaments held within the District. A handout detailing the Committee's suggested tournament guidelines was distributed. The guidelines included the following goals: (1) to schedule tournaments to maximize participation and (2) to avoid scheduling tournaments that would interfere with other tournaments. The guidelines also included action plans to support the goals, including (1) having schedules current on the District website and Unit schedulers reviewing the District schedule to avoid conflicts, (2) traditional schedule dates being observed, (3) Regional tournaments, NAPs, and GNTs being scheduled at least three years in advance, (4) Sectional tournaments in large Units being scheduled 2-3 years in advance, and (5) each Unit being limited to four Sectional tournaments per year. Outlying clubs like Kerrville and New Braunfels would be treated on an individual basis with respect to this last action plan. After discussion, the guidelines were approved. Charles noted that Scott Humphrey is working on scheduling upcoming tournaments. All tournaments already scheduled will remain as scheduled.

**Board of Governors:** Dewitt Hudson noted that Chris Compton is running for Chairman of the ACBL Board of Governors. Other candidates include Richard Anderson and Ellen Kent. It was noted that the District's second alternate to the ACBL Board of Directors has been Al Lochi, who recently passed away. After consideration, the Board elected Bob Morris to fill that position effective January 1, 2013. The Executive Committee of the Board was empowered to appoint Bob to serve as Al's proxy at the meeting of the Board of Governors to be held in San Francisco in November.

**Unit Reports:** Carolyn Pinto reported that Unit 183 has licensed from Patty Tucker the right to present “Learn Bridge in a Day” and will be presenting it at the Fort Worth club. Under the license agreement, Patty will come and speak to groups. Carolyn will report back to the Board how the program is received. Sally Blewett reported that Beaumont held a party bridge game that attracted 25 tables and was very well received. Bert Onstott reported that Houston has purchased an email program to notify members of upcoming events.

Bert Onstott recognized and commended Unit 183 for the excellent work done in putting on the Fort Worth Regional.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.