

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

**September 3, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in the Prelude One conference room of the Renaissance Hotel at 900 East Lookout Drive in Richardson, TX on September 3, 2016. In attendance were:

**Executive Officers**

Tomi Storey	President
Rebecca Brown	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Nancy Strohmer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Charity Coordinator
David Pearlman	Executive Secretary

**Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)**

Rebecca Brown	Unit 172
Paul Cuneo	Unit 174
Tomi Storey	Unit 176
Steve Shirey	Unit 183
David Ticen	Unit 187
Howie Huynh	Unit 197
Marilyn Adams	Unit 201 (alternate for Carolyn Worsham)
Neal Perlman	Unit 204
Larry Davis	Unit 207
Jo Smith	Unit 224
Gay Roach	Unit 225
Lynn Sykes	Unit 233
Joan Paradeis	Unit 353

**Non-Voting Board Members**

**Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Directors**

Dan Morse, Director  
Paul Cuneo (1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Director to ACBL Board of Directors)

**Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Governors**

DeWitt Hudson

## **Committee Chairs**

Scott Humphrey	Awards
Jim Thurtell	Disciplinary, GNT
Laura Delfeld	Intermediate/Novice

## **Call to Order and Quorum**

President Storey called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. and determined that a quorum was present. She welcomed the attendees, in particular Laura Delfeld, the District's new Intermediate/Novice Coordinator.

## **Approval of Minutes**

President Storey noted that minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and revised in accordance with comments received. Upon motion duly made and seconded the revised minutes were unanimously approved.

## **Treasurer's Report**

President Storey noted that the Treasurer's Report had been included in the materials circulated prior to the meeting. Mr. Davis noted that there was a block entry for \$5,000 under the heading "Education" and offered that it would be helpful if in the future amounts of this size were broken down into their components.

President Storey noted that incumbent Treasurer Lew Levy had suggested that the Board develop a succession plan should it be necessary to prepare for a new Treasurer. Ms. Brown volunteered to head an ad hoc committee to take on this task. Ms. Brown was charged with recruiting other committee members.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

## **Verifier's Report**

President Storey noted that a Verifier's Report had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting and that it indicated satisfaction with the Treasurer's financial statements for the period covered.

Mr. Davis inquired about the item labeled "Write-off for PV Cash". Messrs. Humphrey and Thurtell explained that revenue at the Puerto Vallarta Regional is split between the District and the sponsoring Unit, and the item was a recovery by the Unit of expenses incurred in the previous year.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Verifier's report was accepted unanimously.

## **Education Committee Report**

Mr. Cuneo reported that Unit 174 will be offering both the Teacher Accreditation Program and Director's Refresher course at its Regional in January and urged other Units to consider offering the same at their 2017 Regionals. Ms. Brown offered that Unit 172 will likely do the same at its July 2017 Regional.

Mr. Cuneo noted that the twelfth issue of the Intermediate/Novice newsletter had just been distributed, and that some units get customized versions based on input from the unit. He offered to create more customized versions for units submitting unit-specific materials.

Mr. Cuneo also reported that the Robly license had been renewed for another twelve months at the same price, \$265, as for the previous twelve.

## **Intermediate/Novice Coordinator's Report**

Ms. Delfeld stated that she was in the process of getting in touch with each unit's I/N person in order to coordinate District-wide I/N programs.

## **Petition to Create New Unit Within District 16**

Ms. Brown noted that Guanajuato (essentially San Miguel de Allende) has petitioned the ACBL for permission to create a unit separate from the Mexico City unit. After a brief discussion and motion made and duly seconded, the Board unanimously voted to support the petition.

## **Unit 172 Non-Life Master Regional**

Ms. Brown reported that Unit 172's NLM Regional had been a big success, with attendance of over 400 tables, over half of which represented play by members of other units. The unit provided lots of guidance for players, whose only complaint was that they would like to see more gold points at the event. It was explained to them that ACBL policy determined the point awards.

## **ACBL Board of Directors Report**

Mr. Morse reminded the Board that the ACBL encourages tournaments to be held in secondary schools and urged the Board to publicize this fact.

He noted that ACBL membership had risen by about one thousand on a year-over-year basis, and that ACBL would no longer send out rank advancement cards, which can now be printed directly from ACBL's website. ACBL will also begin to send out membership renewal notices by email rather than snail mail in order to reduce expenses.

Mr. Morse noted that ACBL and Bridge Base Online have teamed up to offer an online, solitaire version of Minibridge, which will be available soon.

Mr. Morse also noted an ACBL policy change making it legal to open 1NT with a singleton of A, K or Q, provided the hand does not also contain a doubleton. He also noted that the upper point limit for some national events had been raised. The limit for the Bruce Life Master Pairs and the 0-5,000 Spingold Knockout Teams will be raised to 6,000. The 0-5,000 Mini Spingold will be renamed 0-6,000 Mini Spingold. The limit for the Young Pairs and the 0-1,500 Spingold KO Teams will be raised to 2,500. The 0-1,500 Mini Spingold will be renamed the 0-2,500 Mini Spingold.

Finally, Mr. Morse stated that he would be resigning his position as D16 Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors at the end of 2016, and that Paul Cuneo, as first alternate, would be taking his place. The Board thanked Mr. Morse for his long and distinguished service.

## **Old Business**

### *GNT Qualifying at Club Level*

Mr. Thurtell reported that the District will resume Unit-level qualifying for the 2017 Grand National Teams. All flights will compete in Houston on Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9. The competition schedule will mirror the schedule of the concurrent sectional, with sessions at 10:00 and 2:30 on both days. All competitors will play a full day on Saturday and play in all flights will conclude on Sunday.

President Storey urged all units to post the schedule and Conditions of Contest on their websites.

Mr. Cuneo inquired about the possibility of club-level qualifiers, which ACBL permits. Mr. Thurtell replied that it was too late to do this in 2017 but that he would like to do it in 2018 in lieu of unit-level qualifying. Further discussion was tabled until the Board's next meeting in January 2017. Mr. Thurtell agreed to provide a written proposal on the subject in advance of the January meeting.

### *Learn Bridge in a Day*

President Storey reported that Unit 176 had drawn ten tables to the Learn Bridge in a Day program held just before the Dallas Regional began, and that the unit will offer the program before future regionals and some sectionals as well.

Ms. Delfeld noted that Unit 207 had wanted to offer the program but could not muster the support staff needed for the program. Ms. Strohmer noted that Learn Bridge in a Day requires as much administrative effort as a

sectional tournament. She noted that Unit 174 sees a need for both Learn Bridge in a Day and Minibridge, as they target different audiences.

## **New Business**

### *District Funding of GNT and NAP Participants*

Mr. Davis presented a proposal to have the District send out letters to those qualifying to represent the District at National tournaments in the GNT and NAP events.

Mr. Thurtell noted that as drafted, participants wishing to share additional subsidies from their own units with other members of their GNT team would be required to get permission from their home Unit, and offered that he considered this unwise. Mr. Davis replied that he had intended to protect the players, not tie their hands. Ms. Brown suggested that a rewrite of the proposal was in order and suggested that the matter be tabled until the next meeting of the Board. The Board concurred, and Mr. Davis will submit a revised version before the meeting.

### *Proposed Reduction in District Funding for GNT and NAP Participants in Zero Tolerance Violation Situations*

Discussion on this proposal, submitted by Mr. Davis, was tabled until the next meeting of the Board.

### *Possible Increase in Entry Fees for Five- and Six-Person Teams at Regionals*

ACBL has increased entry fees at National tournaments for five- and six-person teams where all members are eligible to win the entire master point award, and has urged Districts to adopt the same policy. Ms. Brown noted that Ira Hessel had prepared material opposing such a policy and that it was in the board package. After discussion it became clear that the Board was not in favor of adopting the ACBL policy and the matter was dropped without any action.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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David Pearlman  
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16