

Fort Western Unit 183, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2011

Present: Nora Oliver, Max Jackson, Jerry Cosby, Diane Washabaugh, Carolyn Pinto, Joe Harbour, Tom Moore, Margot Hirsch, Mike Goldman (guest), Barbara Clinkscales (guest)

Diane Washabaugh, the President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Diane presented the minutes in Elizabeth Hudson's absence. The minutes were approved as written and will be posted and filed. Margot Hirsch took minutes during the meeting.

Carolyn Pinto, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. The July 2011 table count increased 32.5 as compared to June 2011. The ACBL reimbursement was \$1737.19. The monthly electricity cost was \$1137.37. Carolyn has negotiated a new, lower TXU electricity rate that will take effect August 23. ACBL offers FedEx Office copy discount cards. Carolyn encouraged the Board to use the discount when making copies. The Treasurer's Report was approved and will be posted and filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Unit Growth: Lauren Brown, Chair, was not present. In her absence, Diane passed out a written report from Lauren and asked each Board member to read it prior to the next meeting. Tom Moore reported that a new EasyBridge! will begin in Arlington on September 13 at 7:00 p.m. The first four (4) lessons are free. Unit 183's goal for growth will be five percent (5%) between now and January 2013. Carolyn Pinto will report a Unit goal of four percent (4%) growth to District 16 in Unit 183's Growth Action Plan. She will also include ideas from Lauren's report in the Plan.

Tournaments: Carolyn Pinto, Tournament Chair, anticipates a smaller than usual Fall Sectional due to the Dallas Regional taking place a week earlier. Pulido's will provide the Sunday lunch. She is going to have a microphone available for use during the Annual Meeting. Also, depending on the cost, a microphone may be available for the presenters to use during their lectures.

Carolyn introduced Mike Goldman who is conducting research for future tournament sites (Sectionals and 2012 Regional and 2014 Regional). He has spoken to the Omni, Marriott, Worthington, and Crowne Plaza. The Marriott, located at IH-35 and Hwy. 114 is not an easily accessed location. The Crowne Plaza at Alta Mesa East is a possibility based on location, space requirements, hospitality, and free parking. Carolyn will have to coordinate and confirm possible, available dates with the Crowne Plaza. For now, the 2012 Regional will remain at the Omni where a signed contract is in place. Mike and Carolyn will talk further with Omni about the impact of a college football team being housed at the Omni during the Regional.

Mike Goldman also addressed Fort Worth Studio lease. One and one-half (1 ½) years remain on the current lease. An option to renew the lease will expire sixty (60) days prior to December 12, 2012, the lease termination date. The option to renew would increase the rent from \$3200 per month to \$3525 per month for another five (5) years. Mike recommended that capital improvements be part of the negotiation with the landlord. The Board thanked Mike for his informative report and good work.

Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Hudson, Chair, was absent. The Board thanked her committee for its fine work in producing the following slate of Board of Director candidates: Jerry Cosby, Sonja Fair, Ned Nolte, Nora Oliver, Carolyn Pinto, Linda Spangler, Bill Walker, Millie Williams, and Gary Wright.

Election Committee: Tom Moore, Chair, reported that 950 newsletters were mailed to Unit 183 members. He purchased a postage permit that may be used for a number of mailings. Election committee members must receive all ballots to place in the ballot box. In addition to Tom, the Election Committee members are: Gary Carey, Mary Hoyer, Max Jackson, Janet Jordan, Mary Ellen Stanton, Judy Staser, and Diane Washabaugh.

This is an unusual election year in that five (5) Director positions will be filled: three (3) for three years, one (1) for two years, and one for (1) year. The current Unit 183 Bylaws do not address how to break tie votes. Nora Oliver presented information about what other Units do to break tie votes. After much discussion, the Board approved a procedure to break tie votes for the 2011 Election only. All ties will be broken by lot in the privacy of the Election Committee. The results of the election will be announced during the Annual Meeting at the Fall Sectional.

Education: Carolyn Pinto, Chair, wants to advertise classes. She is in the process of planning both traditional classes and EasyBridge!

Sunshine: Margot Hirsch, Chair, reported: Dewitt Hudson: Emergency illness, Paula Justice: mother passed away, Cynthia Bohnenblust: husband passed away, Grace Ann Titone: fell and broke shoulder, Peggy Harcastle: broke shoulder. The Board sends sympathy and best wishes to these individuals and their families.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Margot Hirsch was selected as a 2011 Goodwill recipient. Diane will contact the Denton Club for another recipient. Carolyn Pinto was selected as the Texas Star for Unit 183. Diane will report the Goodwill recipients and the Texas Star to District 16 and ACBL, as necessary. The honorees will be recognized at Awards Night.

Craig Robinson, ACBL President, is scheduled to visit the Fort Worth Studio on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, for the Tuesday afternoon game. He will play Bridge with Mary Jane Orock. Lunch will be provided by Risky's Barbecue. The Board and club representatives from throughout Unit 183 will have dinner with Mr. Robinson. A large crowd is anticipated for the game. Individuals planning to play are requested to sign up in advance. There will be both limited and open sections. The game fee is \$7.00.

Margot Hirsch, Bylaws Committee Chair, and her committee will present the proposed Bylaw amendments to the Board on Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. The Board, Bylaws Committee members, and attorney are invited to attend.

The Board congratulates Donna Rosz. She is Unit 183's newest Diamond Life Master.

Carolyn Pinto raised concern about the Game Directors' responsibilities and commitments. The Random Swiss Teams Game was very successful, but the success was threatened by the printer situation. The printer problem that occurred in a prior game should have been reported immediately. Thus, the printer was being replaced as the Random Swiss was getting underway. The board charged Max Jackson with immediately posting a list of contacts for a game director to call as soon as a Fort Worth Studio problem arises.

Diane Washabaugh left the meeting early and Tom Moore, Vice President, presided over the remainder of the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

A board member presented a player's written complaint about another player having violated the Zero Tolerance Policy. The Board determined that the President will refer the complaint to the Unit Recorder.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Hirsch, acting for Elizabeth Hudson