

FORT WESTERN UNIT 183
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 18, 2015

The meeting was held at 6715 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, TX. President L. Spangler called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Directors L. Spangler, J. Montgomery, J. Jordan, K. Jones, D. Pearlman, L. Brown, M. Tryon, S. Shirey and J. Floyd all attended. District 16 President Paul Cuneo also attended.

Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the April 20, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

M. Tryon reported on April 2015 financials. The Studio and the Unit each lost money for the month. There were several reasons for this. On the revenue side, there were some days lost to weather and other days lost to tournaments, both local and out of town. Evening games continue to show a significant decline in attendance. Expenses were higher than in many months because a number of one-time and annual expenses (such as expenses associated with the annual awards game) were paid during the month. Upon motion made and duly seconded the Board unanimously accepted the report.

Discussions with Paul Cuneo

P. Cuneo introduced himself and provided his background, which includes a degree in chemical engineering and 27 years at Shell Oil, mostly in a managerial capacity. He noted that he had started playing bridge in 2005 and had served on the board of the Houston unit from 2008 through 2014.

P. Cuneo asked members of the Board to provide two lists of topics: one set of items that the Board believes the Unit does well, and a second set that the Board believes need improvement. Nine items made the first list, seven made the second. The top three vote getters in the first category were education, volunteerism, and the functioning of the Board of Directors. In the second category the top three were the need to attract new members, the need to get existing members to play more frequently, and the need to provide more resources to educate players on bridge etiquette.

In addition, L. Brown provided a topic not in either list, the changes to master point requirements for life master. She noted that this had discouraged many members from continuing to play duplicate.

P. Cuneo reported that he is gathering similar information from as many units as possible in advance of the next District Board meeting to be held on July 3rd so that, among other things, the District can pool the knowledge of the various Units to help the Units achieve their goals. He also noted that many other Units had indicated that poor member retention was a big issue, and that District 16 ranks last in that category across the ACBL.

Education Committee Report

L. Brown reported very briefly on education. She said she was considering having a one-time meeting to which all bridge teachers in the Unit would be invited to share their experiences and thoughts. The Board thought this to be an excellent idea.

Tournament Committee Report

J. Jordan noted that the Unit's sectional scheduled for April 1 to 3 in 2016 was uncomfortably close to the Unit's regional tournament to be held later in the month, and proposed canceling the sectional. L. Spangler concurred that this was a good idea. J. Jordan will contact ACBL to remove it from the calendar. J. Jordan will also investigate 2017 dates to see if the Unit's sectional scheduled for March could be moved to late April, as the Unit will have no regional that year and moving the date would better spread out local tournaments.

S. Shirey noted that Arlington is sponsoring two non-life master sectionals in 2015 and the Unit has none scheduled. J. Jordan will investigate the possibility of scheduling one during the month of November.

J. Jordan reported that there are now firm arrangements to hold the 2016 and 2018 regionals at the Hyatt Regency in the DFW airport.

Old Business

L. Spangler reminded the Board that considerable work will be needed in order to hold a vote on Bylaw revisions at the Arlington sectional in late July. As next steps, D. Pearlman is to research notice and timing requirements and L. Spangler will contact Arlington to secure a time slot during the tournament for the meeting.

New Business

L. Spangler commented on a question and answer that appeared in the Ruling the Game column in the most recent Bridge Bulletin concerning (1) the proper application of master point

limits at club games and (2) club owners playing in their own games. D. Pearlman was to contact ACBL on the subject and report back to the Board.

S. Shirey reported that dates for the Unit qualification games for the North American Pairs have been approved by ACBL.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
David J. Pearlman
Secretary, Fort Western Unit 183