

FORT WESTERN UNIT 183
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 23, 2024

The meeting was held at 6715 Camp Bowie Blvd., Ft. Worth, TX. President C Benton called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

Directors D. Dillman, R. Eads, A. Lefevre, S. Shirey attended in person. Directors S. Bennett, D. Branch, MB Howard, J Robbins attended by phone.

Minutes

Minutes from Dec 26, 2023 meeting had been sent to board members, no corrections have been reported to the secretary, S. Shirey. Director S. Shirey summarized the minutes as some board members were unable to review before tonight's meeting. S. Bennett moved to accept the minutes, S. Shirey seconded, the minutes were accepted. The board voted (by email) about a board vacancy and installation of a Treasurer. The year end Treasurer report was summarized by S. Bennett. Upcoming tournaments were discussed. Notification of illness/death need to be timelier.

Board Vacancy and Installation of Treasurer

President C. Benton contacted all board members on Jan 2nd pertaining to an email vote addressing two issues: the absence of Director H. Schulz and to fill that vacancy with A. Lefevre as Treasurer. Director Benton contacted Director Schulz informing him that he had been absent from 3 consecutive Board meetings. He was therefore considered to have abandoned his position per Article IX B. Schulz agreed and he was then removed by majority vote of the Board effective 2 Jan 24. A majority "yes" vote was rendered to install Ann Lefevre as Treasurer effective 2 Jan 24.

Treasurer Report

The end of year financial report was summarized by S. Bennett. Membership in Unit 183 declined 34 or 4.8% to 670 at the end of December 2023 from 704 on December 31, 2022. Net losses for the year ended December 2023 were \$18,195 or \$7,401 more than our December 31, 2022, losses of \$10,794. Major components of the unfavorable variance are \$7,401 less of tournament revenue in 2023 primarily due to the Regional tournament in prior year. Games played increased 31 or 11.2% to 307 in 2023 from 276 in 2022. Table count increased 140.75 or 8.1% to 1,883.5 in 2023 from 1742.75 in 2022. Average table count per game decreased 2.8% to 6.14 in 2023 from 6.31 in 2022. The regular monthly financial report is available online.

President C. Benton asked about CD rates as they have increased. Our accounts comes due in May and July. A.Lefevre needs to be added to the CD accounts, located at EECU, President C. Benton is setting up appointments. Treasurer A. Lefevre stated Chase has a minimum of \$35,000. As we get closer to renewing the accounts a decision will be made about cashing in or paying a \$30/month penalty should the accounts dip below the minimum. Director R. Eads made a motion to accept this financial report, motion seconded by Director S. Shirey, motion passed unanimously.

Tournaments

Director Eads expressed the following needs for the February tournament: 1. boards need to be made for Friday and Saturday-D. Dillman volunteered, 2. A caddie is needed for Sunday-D. Dillman to check with granddaughter, 3. Need snacks organized for Fri/Sat, Sunday will be a meal-will need condiments etc. to be organized-Brenda Martin was suggested. May tournament (regional) needs: caddies needed-be thinking-will be addressed again, supplies-biggest issue is the computer paper, R. Eads to investigate, "handouts"-we appear to have various things from previous tournaments that can be used. R. Eads recommends having just a partnership desk. R. Eads is talking to local clubs about bidding boxes, bridgemates etc. There are questions about who gets free rooms/free plays. R Eads will investigate who gets what and make a proposal. S Shirey would like a room as he will be duplicating boards. It is time to sign up for the daily bulletin - \$200, A. Lefevre will give R Eads a check for the vendor. October Sectional-need to find an alternate venue for 3 days. Venues are being checked out.

New Business

Concern for better notification of death/illness of our membership. Pianola seems to be the best answer.

ACBL no longer giving clubs 11% incentive money from dues (retention). They are now giving 5% with options for another 10% which involves phone calls etc., to encourage lapsed players return.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:08.

Diane Dillman

Secretary, Fort Western Unit 183

