

Texas Regional Conference
District 16
Minutes from January 12, 2002
Houston, Texas
DRAFT

Call to Order – Determination of a Quorum:

President Tom Hughes called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

Voting members present: Tom Hughes (Unit 183), Charlie Price (Unit 176), Larry Davis (Unit 207), Richard Kiepfer (Unit 172), Kathleen Brown (Unit 353), Martha DeCou (Unit 187), Ross Robins (Unit 237), Tom Corlett (Unit 233), Carol Schoenhals (Unit 197), Lu Edwards (Unit 174) and Sandy Rea (Unit 209).

Guests and Committee members present: Cindy Snider, Eric Snow, Dan Morse, Al Lochli, John Zilic, Guillermo Poplawsky, Chris Compton, Tom Whitesides, Hugh Campbell, Sandra Campbell and Ricki Perry.

Election of New Officers:

President Tom Hughes called for nominations for all officers. Lu Edwards, Unit 174 was nominated for President, Carol Schoenhals, Unit 197 was nominated for Vice President, Charlie Price, Unit 176 was nominated for Secretary, Richard Kiepfer Unit 172 was nominated for Treasurer, Tom Hughes was nominated for Executive Treasurer and Cindy Snider was nominated for Executive Secretary.

There being no other nominations these officers were elected by acclamation.

Approval of Minutes from September 2, 2001:

President Lu Edwards called for a review of the minutes from Dallas, September 1, 2001. The following changes were suggested.

- There will be ten Open participants, ten Ladies participants and four Junior participants competing in the Grand Prix “Mind Sport” Olympic Events February 6-7, 2002 in Salt Lake City.
- The Grand National Team Conditions of contest were updated and clarified.
- The North American Pairs 2003 and 2004 clarification is that the District will reimburse Austin 50% of the losses up to \$1,000.

The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Follow-up on New (now Old) Business from Dallas:

Chris Compton discussed the possible childcare accommodations at the Austin Regional. He stated that even though Donna did not request a room he recommends that a room provided by the tournament would be appropriate for the childcare provider. This would only be for the summer regional tournaments.

Tom Corlett made a motion that the "District should pay for the bedroom for the duration of the tournaments when an approved childcare provider is present." It was seconded and passed.

President Lu appointed a committee to review the by-laws. The committee is Doc Kieffer, Chris Compton and Larry Davis. They will bring recommendation to the Board in July.

Report from District Director – Dan Morse:

Dan Morse reported about the new Super Senior Events which are flighted by age or masterspoints but not both. The age brackets are 55+, 65+ and 75+. Dan solicited comments from the District representatives related to a Mini Life master Pairs for masterpoint levels of 5,000 points and less and 1,500 points and less.

He also reported that the ACBL hired its new CEO. His name is Jay Baum and he has a marketing background having spent 20 years with the Omaha, Nebraska Department of Tourism. Brad Holsbery will be the National Tournament Director replacing Gary Blaiss.

Dan asked that all Units encourage their members to attend the Spring Nationals.

Executive Treasurer's Report – Tom Hughes:

Tom Hughes provided the attached report and requested that all Unit reps make sure that District bills are forwarded to him.

Committee Reports:

Awards – Eric Snow reported that seven out of seventeen units will be awarded the Texas Star pin. All Units are entitled to have a Texas Star recipient and he encourages all Units to do so. The Jacoby award will be presented in September in Dallas and all submissions are due by July 1.

Grand National Teams – Sandy Campbell reported that the GNT's cleared more (\$2,250) than the \$1,500 paid out to the winners last year. They are requesting an increase to \$750 per team due to the expense of going to Washington D.C. The motion was seconded and passed.

Education and Membership – Hugh Campbell is in the process of contacting Julie Greenberg from the ACBL and he will e-mail and or speak to the Unit reps before the nationals.

Internet – Al Lochli reported that there are new Internet Coordinators in the following Units: 172, Susan Olm, 174 Georgiana Gates, 183 and 237. He also stated that all documents on line from 1999 and before have been archived. The Club sites are posting recap sheets after games each day which are linked to the District site. The District is receiving approximately 1,000,000 hits per year.

North American Pairs – John Zilic reported that there are two “at large” spots available one in Flight B and one in Flight C. Our District has consistently been in a position to send “at large” competitors. He also reported that he will have an internet connection after the Nationals.

Tournament Committee – We are looking for caddies for the Nationals. Sandy Bippert is the Head Caddie. The caddies will be paid \$25 per session at 2 sessions per day.

Larry Davis recommended attaching the North American Pairs (NAP's) to the Houston Regional. The Houston Regional will be changing its dates back to February based on requests from the host hotel, the Adams Mark. Accordingly the qualifying games will have to be played by January 31. The dates for 2003 are February 3-9, 2003. Houston would be willing to take the NAP's in 2003 after approval from their Board and then evaluate it on a go forward basis. Larry stated that the Sectional losses too much money and that he can contract with the hotel at anytime for the January dates. San Antonio will be evaluating it this year. January was determined to be the ideal time frame to qualify for the NAP's and a motion was made and seconded and passed to have Austin host the NAP's in 2003 and 2004 with the District contributing 50% of the losses up to \$1,000 and receiving 50% of the first \$1,000 of profits.

Charlie Price reported that there are more and more tournaments being scheduled and it is becoming harder and harder to keep the status quo of “Historical Dates.” Fort Worth Unit was very upset that Dallas was awarded a dates in November so close to the “historical” Fort Worth tourney. While we used to be able to operate using a “Gentleman's agreement” we can no longer proceed this way. Therefore, it is imperative that each Unit turn the sanctions in to Tom Whitesides timely. The earliest sanctions are accepted are 4-5 years out for Regionals and 3 years out for Sectionals. Accordingly, from this moment forward, if there are no sanctions on record with Tom Whitesides, there is no date reserved.

Disciplinary – All is calm.

ScoreCard – All is well.

Board of Governors – Dewitt Hudson reported on the Board of Governors meeting. They will be reviewing the insurance packages available for the ACBL and Districts at the Houston Nationals. There is an issue with the amounts charged by the ACBL for labels. The District 23 and the Western Conference is requesting a volume discount which will benefit the Texas Regional Conference slightly.

He has scouted out an All Star Recreational Vehicle Campground located at 59 Beltway.

Texas State Championships – The Texas State Championship in 2001 was good and he is willing to have it again. The question remains as to whether the event is meeting the objectives of the District. It was designed for publicity of bridge and there was very little or no media publicity gained. Therefore, the District should decide if effort should be used for the coordination and planning of this event. It was moved seconded and voted on to discontinue this event.

Eric Snow reported that the first Monday of the Houston Nationals is Goodwill Day and all Goodwill Committee Members should make every effort to attend the reception. Eric also reported that the Spring Houston Nationals are seven weeks away – Houston is ready!!

Eric also reported that as Dallas has been awarded the Spring 2006 Nationals the District should continue with the surcharge on Saturday at all of the Regionals. The motion was made, seconded and passed that beginning the July 4, 2002 Regional in Austin, there will be a District 16 National Fund established. Accordingly, there will be a \$1 surcharge per session on Saturday of each District 16 Regional for the next District 16 National.

New Business:

No New Business.

We thanked and recognized all of the Houston volunteers for their hard work for the regional and the upcoming national tournaments.

Adjourn:

We adjourned at 12:20. The next meeting will be in Austin on July 6.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy L. Snider
Executive Secretary
District 16