

Houston Board Meeting, February, 2007

Meeting Called to Order:

Voting Members present: Ira Hessel, Unit 172; Eric Snow, Unit 174; Gerrie Owen, Unit 176; Martha DeCou, Unit 187; Carol Schoenhals, Unit 197; Betty Poindexter, Unit 201; Nelson, Unit 205; Larry Davis, Unit 207; Betsy Duncan, Unit 224; Jonathan Ernest, Unit 225; David Pennington, Unit 233; Alla Mae Westbrook, Unit 237

Non-Voting Members present: G. Poplawsky, Unit 173; Su Do; Sandy Campbell; Donna Compton; John Zilic; Dewitt Hudson; Dan Morse; Tom Whitesides; Barbara Nance; Lew Levy; Sharon Fairchild.

There is a Quorum.

First order of business is to elect the 2007 Officers. Nominations for all officers are requested:

President: Eric Now. **MOTION. SECONDED. APPROVED.**

1st Vice President: Larry Davis. **MOTION. SECONDED. APPROVED.**

2nd Vice-President: Ira Hessel. **MOTION. SECONDED. APPROVED.**

Executive Secretary: Donna Compton **MOTION. SECONDED. APPROVED.**

Executive Treasurer: Lew Levy. **MOTION. SECONDED. APPROVED.**

MOTION to approve Minutes. SECONDED. CARRIED.

District Representative Report (Dan Morse): ACBL has lost their marketing and publicity director. Anyone interested should send in their resume. ACBL is selling the building they are currently in. They do not know where the new location will be located. We are still working with the AARP and those projects are going well. Our membership is up 2000 members since last year January 2006.

Sharon Fairchild: It is a pleasure to be here and a pleasure to serve on a board with Dan. My message is that we need to be kind to the newcomers. Our membership will grow if we can keep them.

Treasurer's Report (Lew Levy): No Report.

Secretary's Report (Donna Compton): You may now send in your officer election results directly to the ACBL through their website.

Committee Reports:

Appellate (Jonathan) All is well.

Awards (Eric Snow) Texas Stars presentation will be this evening between sessions. We received 14 nominations this year which was not as good as last year but historically it is still a good showing.

The Unit Good Will Pins have been sent out and the names will be published in the *Scorecard*. If your individual units wish to hold a special presentation, you may do so at your local sectional or club special event.

We need new nominations for the Jacoby Award which is given at the Labor Day Regional. All nominations must be sent to me by July 1.

Charity (Carol Schoenhals) – We haven't received any suggestions for our State charity. It must be a 501(C)(3) charity to qualify. Please send me your names by July 1.

GNT (Sandy Campbell) – All is well. The residency and masterpoint levels must be met at the unit level. The only teams that have a pre-qualifying stage at the unit level are B & C. The Superflight and Flight A teams may not be mixed in the qualifying event. If there is an ineligible team in the qualifying game – the game will be nullified.

National and District Conditions of Contests are located on the District Website. The cut off date for the masterpoint restrictions is September 1. Flight B is masterpoint limit is 2000.

The D16 Conditions of Contest are still being reworked but it is mostly verbiage – not content - at issue.

Membership & Education (Donna Compton): Our numbers are have changed from a net gain of 105 members to 60 members since last year. We are still 4th in the ACBL, however. We need to do more retention programs in the individual units. Please see the ACBL website for manuals on these types of programs.

This meeting will be my last meeting at District Education & Membership Chair. I have enjoyed my time as the Chairperson but I think it is time for someone with fresh ideas to step into the position.

Eric Snow: Please let me know if you are interested and I will make the appointment at a later date.

Intermediate/Newcomer Coordinator (Su Doe): Retention rate can be increased on an individual unit basis by having your Education Chair set up a Mentoring Program in your clubs.

Larry Davis: We have a 6-month starting in October and the unit subsidizes the entry for the mentor.
Eric - One of our clubs has a monthly mentor program where they call in people to play in the game as a mentor. Both Mentoring Programs are a huge success!

Internet (Steve Bruce): All is well.

NAP (John Zilic): The club attendance increased last year but the District level did not. We increased our table count enough this year so that we now have 4 places instead of 3 for Flight B.

The sanction deadline is now August 15th. The District Level will be in San Antonio in January 2008.

Tournament (Charles Price): All is well.

Disciplinary (Sandy Campbell): All is well.

Scorecard (Donna Compton): All is well.

Board of Governors (Dewitt Hudson): There is no require charity but if you do, it must be in conjunction with the ACBL.

I was elected VP of Education Foundation in Hawaii. The Education Foundation is an organization that approves grants for bridge related ventures. Please let me know if you are interested in submitting a grant to the foundation

G. Poplawsky: There is a 23% increase in the membership and it is a direct result of a club director course that was held last year. Teachers create the players but the club director gets the new members.

Unit Reports

172: We have a new club in San Antonio so I think that will change some things in town.

173: Attendance is down since Mexico legalized slot machines.

174: We are having a tournament and our attendance is up 25%.

187: The unit has taken over Jack Mehrens' club so we are in the business. We are having a sectional next month and a regional honoring Jack Mehrens in October.

197: We are still running educational programs with 5-6 tables.

201: All is fine. We had a regional last October and a sectional coming up in March.

205: We have a club in Puerto Vallarta that would like to be an ACBL sanction but we don't have any club directors. Guillermo Poplawsky is giving his course next month so we are hoping to have a third club within the next year.

207: All is well.

233: We a tournament coming up in March – free food, fun crowd. We want you to all come over to our tournament. My partner and I are still teaching and we have 14 people in our current class.

237: We are still working on the dates for the 2009 regional. We would like to have it when the snowbirds are in town. We have a new location on the Island so we are hoping to increase the table count with this move back to the Island. We are having a sectional in March. Our teachers are working hard creating new players.

NEW BUSINESS

Mexico Regional - Gerrie Owen: We are proposing a November 13-18, 2007 regional in Acapulco. Guillermo Poplawsky will be the coordinator at a rate of \$1500. Norinne, Dick and Lew will be the local tournament coordinators and they will be responsible for the tournament chairs. We are also proposing that Unit 205 will receive 20% of the net result of the tournament.

MOTION. SECONDED. APPROVED.

Dan Morse: We need to set the dates at least a year out if possible.

Guillermo Poplawsky: It is difficult to book hotels in Mexico outside of a year because of the management issues. Last year's tournament had a net of \$1000 which is down from the previous year.

Dewitt Hudson: I request that an audit be made on the books from the tournament.

Unit 205: We need some help in receiving information from the District. We are a small group spread out over a large area. We don't know what questions to ask.

Donna Compton: The internet is a wonderful source of events and information to give guidance to Unit 205. Please visit both the ACBL and the District 16 websites for further information.

OLD BUSINESS

Thank you Houston for your tournament. Meeting Adjourned.