

**American Contract Bridge League District 16
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held September 4, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Renaissance Dallas - Richardson Hotel in Richardson, Texas at 10 a.m. on September 4, 2010.

Board members present (Units represented in parentheses): Ira Hessel (172), Bert Onstott (174), Bob Butterfield (176), Steve Shirey (183), Carol Schoenhals (197), Sally Blewett (201), Larry Davis (207), Jo Smith (224), Gay Roach (225) and David Pennington (233).

Committee Chairs and others present: Charles Price (President and Tournament Committee Chair), Dan Morse (District representative to the ACBL Board of Directors), Dewitt Hudson (District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors), Scott Humphrey (Awards Committee Chair), James Thurtell (Disciplinary Committee Chair), Jim Bauer (Grand National Teams Committee Chair), Dorsey Shaw (Intermediate/Novice Committee Chair), Melody Euler (North American Pairs Committee Chair), Tom Whitesides (Tournament Coordinator) and Lew Levy (Executive Treasurer).

President Charles Price called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Board held July 3, 2010, were approved as presented to the meeting.

District Director: Dan Morse reported that he attended the grand opening of the new ACBL headquarters building and museum in Horn Lake, Mississippi. He stated that it is very nice, and it contains a library and a hall of fame. He noted that any Regional that attains attendance of at least 3,000 for three years in a row will earn an extra Regional for the District, and that it is important to keep our District's membership over 9,000 so that we retain the extra Regional we recently earned. He also reported that two new national events have been approved by the ACBL Board – a mixed pairs event for members at least 70 years old and a mixed team event for members at least 55 years old.

Executive Treasurer: Lew Levy presented a report that included the District's Profit and Loss Statement for the period January 1 through August 31, 2010, and its Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2010. It noted that (i) revenues continued to exceed expenses, (ii) Scorecard expenses exceeded revenue by about \$2,000 for the year, a smaller deficit than we have experienced in the past and (iii) the recently completed District STaC generated excess revenues compared to previous years' tournaments. Lew suggested that the Board

should consider what our objective is as to the level of funds to be maintained by the District and how we should spend any excess funds we have.

Awards: Scott Humphrey reported that the Jacoby award for 2010 would be presented that evening. He also noted that nominations for Texas Star awards must be received by December 31, and encouraged Units to submit nominations.

Charity: Carol Schoenhals noted that a District-wide charity game will be held on November 5, 2010. The amount received for charity will go initially to the ACBL, but will later be returned to the District to distribute.

Membership: Bert Onstott reported that the District's membership was 8,986 at September 1, 2010. He stated that Units need to be the primary recruiter and retainer of members. He also distributed a report showing membership by Unit within the District and detailing progress reported by Unit representatives on Unit initiatives to increase membership. Dewitt Hudson stated that it's important to be nice to members if we want to retain them.

Education: On behalf of Paul Cuneo, Bert Onstott noted that plans are being made (i) to offer teacher training at the next Houston Regional and (ii) for a teacher appreciation day at the next Houston Regional.

Grand National Teams: Jim Bauer suggested that it would be helpful for the Board to clarify the fees payable to the District for Unit-level and District-level GNT games, and stated that he believed they should be set at \$15 per team. After discussion, a motion was made that the fees be set at \$15 per team, with a maximum of \$1,000 for District-level games. The motion was approved. He then discussed proposed amendments to the Conditions of Contest for the GNTs. These amendments were detailed in a handout presented to the Board. After discussion, the proposed amendments were approved. The amendments provide, among other things, that if four teams enter the District-level GNT competition, there will be two knockout semifinal matches with two teams advancing for a full-day head-to-head final match. Jim also presented proposed action plans relating to the GNTs.

Intermediate/Novice: Dorsey Shaw discussed ideas that she will send out to clubs in the District for their consideration. They include: (i) at tournaments, having a reception for 299ers who won points during the tournament where they could meet each other, share stories, etc. and (ii) in novice games, if a rules infraction occurs, have the director stop play and use it as a learning experience for all of the players.

Internet: Bert Onstott noted that the Dallas and Abilene Units have asked for his advice in revising their websites. He also noted that the Austin, Temple and Houston Units have online partnership desks, and that software for such online desks is available to other Units. Interested parties should contact Bert. In addition, he noted that the ACBL can post on its website results and hands for games played at clubs.

Long Range Planning: President Charles Price requested that all committee chairs who have not already done so develop action plans relating to their areas that emphasize recruiting and retaining members.

North American Pairs: Melody Euler presented proposed action plans relating to North American Pairs games.

Publicity: Sally Blewett noted that the action plans she has proposed include having appreciation events for teachers, which she feels is very important.

Mexico: Guillermo Poplawsky reported that things are proceeding on track for the Puerto Vallarta Regional. Dan Morse suggested that, in the future, it would be a good idea to post the schedule for the tournament at least one year in advance.

Scorecard: Ira Hessel stated that we are close to breaking even financially on the current issue of the Scorecard. He then discussed the current structure of fees charged to Units for the Scorecard, which is \$.50 for each member who receives a copy. After discussion, a motion to revise the fee structure to provide for a charge of \$.50 per member per copy of the Scorecard was approved.

Unit Reports: Gay Roach reported that Unit 205 is working hard on the upcoming Tyler Regional. Sally Blewett reported that Unit 201 is getting electronic scoring devices. Melody Euler noted that the Waco Sectional tournament will be held again in 2011. Bert Onstott noted that 2011 will be the 50th anniversary of the Houston Regional.

Board of Governors: After discussion and consideration of candidates, Betty Starzec was nominated as a member of the Board of Governors beginning in 2011 to replace Tom Corlett.

Charles Price recognized and commended Unit 176 for the excellent work done in putting on the Dallas Regional.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.