



American Contract Bridge League District 16



Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held

August 31, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Renaissance Hotel, Richardson, Texas on August 31, 2013.

Board members, Committee Chairs, and others present

Jo Smith.....	Unit 224 Representative and President
Jim Thurtell.....	1st Vice President, GNT Coordinator, Disciplinary Committee
Paul Cuneo.....	Unit 174 Representative and 2nd Vice President
Lew Levy.....	Executive Treasurer
Rebecca Brown.....	Executive Secretary
Ira Hessel.....	Unit 172 Representative
Tomi FitzGerald.....	Unit 176 Representative
Linda Spangler.....	Unit 183 Alternate
Margaret Crumpler.....	Unit 187 Alternate
Neal Perlman.....	Unit 204 Representative
Larry Davis.....	Unit 207 Representative
David Pennington.....	Unit 233 Representative
Gay Roach.....	Unit 225 Representative
Joan Paradeis.....	Unit 353 Representative
Dan Morse.....	District Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors
Dewitt Hudson.....	District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors
Melody Euler.....	North American Pairs Coordinator
Scott Humphrey.....	Awards, Tournament Coordinator
Betty Starzec.....	District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors
Betty Mengle.....	Guest

Call to Order

President Jo Smith called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Past Meeting Minutes

Dan Morse moved to amend the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on July 6, 2013 to reflect that \$550,000 (not \$900,000 as previously reported) was raised for the Alzheimer Association on The Longest Day. Motion carried, without objection, and then Mr. Morse moved to approve the minutes as amended. Motion seconded and approved without opposition.

Treasurer's Report

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report (with accompanying balance sheet, profit and loss statement and updated budget for the first eight months of 2013) was made and seconded and approved without opposition.

The budget is ahead of projections due to the Grass Roots Fund revenue of \$14,000, the balance of which funds (to the extent not expended) may be carried forward to next year. Mr. Levy will draft the 2014 Budget, with input from a finance committee.

Motion was made and seconded to create a standing Finance Committee to serve at the pleasure of the President. President Smith appointed Paul Cuneo and Jim Thurtell to serve with Lew Levy on the committee. The committee will be tasked with drafting the 2014 budget and with recommending a compensation policy for the office of the Executive Treasurer, among other things.

Committee Reports

District Director's Report

Dan Morse reported that ACBL membership has increased by 824 members, with District 16 membership static. The NAOPs flights have been changed (B flight to include up to 2500 rather than 2,000; A flight to begin at 6,000 rather than 5,000). It is anticipated that NAOP participation will increase, given extra subsidies for District finalists, gold points available for unit finals, and extra chances to qualify throughout the District. Also, Mr. Morse reported that more 0-10,000 events will be available at the Spring and Fall Nationals. The ACBL has instituted a new VP scale at NABC plus events. In an effort to encourage more youths to get involved in bridge, the ACBL is making it easier to form clubs and teams at colleges. Last, Mr. Morse reported that Dan Mamula resigned as President, with Bill Cook installed as interim President for four months until Cook leaves the Board in January.

Awards

Scott Humphrey reported that the Jacoby Award winner will be announced later in the day. Submissions for Texas Star awards are due soon and should consist of approximately 150 words.

North American Pairs

Melody Euler reported that Unit qualifiers have been completed. The District finals will be held in San Antonio on January 18-19, 2014. She also reported that it is possible for Units to include up to two sessions as Grass Roots Charity events during every sectional. One dollar extra per session would be assessed each player, which funds would go to the District Grass Roots Fund.

Charity

October 1 is a District Charity game.

STaC

Tomi FitzGerald reported that the ACBL Charity game will occur during the District STaC week. Clubs must elect which game to run, though she recommends that clubs elect the Charity game.

Education

Paul Cuneo reported that both the TAP and Directors courses will be offered at the Houston Regional.

GNT

Jim Thurtell stated that flight changes have been made: A is up to 6,000; B is up to 2500 (points determined as of 8/6/2013). In an effort to increase participation, District finals will be split so that players may try qualifying in more than one flight. Flights A and C finals will be in Houston (April 4-6), Super Flight and B Flight in Dallas in May. All C qualifying games (NLM under 500) must be completed by March 31. It has been proposed that districts raise the number of teams sent to the



Nationals to two. Also, discussion centered on enhancing playing conditions, especially regarding time clocks and unacceptable noise levels.

Intermediate/Novice: Linda Spangler (for Carolyn Pinto) reported that Unit 183 ran a successful bridge camp for two weeks, with 17 attendees (ages 7-10). Another camp is scheduled. Also, the Unit is starting a series of Easy Bridge classes.

Tournaments

Scott Humphrey reported that sanctions requests are going well. Tournament requests made within 90 days of the proposed event will be rejected (including I/N events). There ensued a discussion of the timing of the Tyler regional.

Scorecard

Ira Hessel reported that he and Ellen have been successful in securing more advertising revenue.

Board of Governors

Dewitt Hudson announced that with 3200 clubs in the ACBL, it is best to send reports electronically; 160 clubs are still reporting manually (6 in District 16). The college bridge competition is heating up; UT finished 4th; U of Washington won.

Unit Reports

None.

Old Business

The Grass Roots Funds committee made the following recommendations: (1) Supplement ACBL subsidies to individuals playing in the NABC NAP event, with a likely cost to the District of \$3600 and a maximum exposure of \$4200; (2) Provide subsidies to the GNT Team that attends the event at the NABC, with \$8,544 minimum exposure. See attached exhibit for further details. Motion made and seconded to adopt the recommendations of the Grass Roots Funds committee. Motion carried.

New Business

- President Smith appointed an advisory committee to assist Units with schedules of events for Regionals. Members appointed are Ira Hessel (Chair), Nagy Kamel, Scott Humphrey, Tomi FitzGerald, Steve Shirey, Charlie Price and Rebecca Brown. Units should submit the proposed schedule of events to the committee prior to submission to the ACBL.
- Electronic cigarettes: ACBL has no policy currently regarding their use. A motion was made to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes in the playing areas for all District 16 regionals and to recommend that Units prohibit their use at all Unit events. Motion carried, with Unit 353 (Joan Paradeis) opposed.

Host Unit

Jo Smith recognized the outstanding job done by Unit 176 on its regional tournament and particularly recognized Tomi FitzGerald as tournament chair.

Adjournment



A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved without opposition at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rebecca Brown, District 16 Executive Secretary

