

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League

January 28, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in the Richmond conference room of the Westchase Marriott Hotel at 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, Texas on January 28, 2017. In attendance were:

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Tomi Storey	President
Rebecca Brown	1 st Vice President
Nancy Strohmer	2 nd Vice President
David Pearlman	Executive Secretary

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS (UNIT REPRESENTATIVES)

Rebecca Brown	Unit 172
Paul Cuneo	Unit 174
Tomi Storey	Unit 176
Steve Shirey	Unit 183
David Ticen	Unit 187
Carolyn Worsham	Unit 201
Larry Davis	Unit 207
Gay Roach	Unit 225
Lynn Sykes	Unit 233
Johnny Johnson	Unit 237

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

REPRESENTING DISTRICT 16 ON ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Cuneo, Director
Bob Morris (1st Alternate)
Tomi Storey (2nd Alternate)

REPRESENTING DISTRICT 16 ON ACBL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DeWitt Hudson
Betty Starzec

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Scott Humphrey	Awards
Nancy Strohmer	Charity
Jim Thurtell	Disciplinary, GNT
Jonathan Ernest	Appellate
Roxie Tom	NAP

OTHERS

Robert Heller	President, ACBL
Barbara Heller	Chair, ACBL Education Committee
Rachell Jackson	President, Unit 207
B. J. Sanders	Unit 207
Dan Leightman	Unit 174
Bill Riley	Unit 174

CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM

President Storey called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and determined that a quorum was present. She welcomed the attendees, in particular Bob and Barbara Heller, ACBL President and ACBL Education Committee Chair respectively.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Storey noted that minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and revised in accordance with comments received. Subject to fixing a typo identified by Ms. Brown, upon motion duly made and seconded the revised minutes were unanimously approved.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Ms. Storey noted that it was time to elect executive officers for 2017. Upon motion duly made and seconded the following were elected unanimously:

Tomi Storey	President
Rebecca Brown	1 st Vice President
Nancy Strohmer	2 nd Vice President
David Pearlman	Executive Secretary
Lew Levy	Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Storey noted that the Treasurer's Report had been included in the materials circulated prior to the meeting. Ms. Brown noted that the search for a future replacement for Lew Levy had yielded Dan Leightman, and that he would be formally proposed for the position at such time as Mr. Levy steps down.

Mr. Leightman presented the Treasurer's Report. He observed that the District has about \$100,000 in cash and showed an operating profit in 2016 of approximately \$23,000.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Cuneo noted that his written report was included in the package distributed in advance of the meeting and stated he had nothing further to offer. Ms. Storey said that she was considering combining the Education Committee with the Intermediate/Novice Committee. She said she would consult with I/N Coordinator Laura Delfeld and would likely place the matter on the agenda for the Board's next meeting.

Ms. Starzec said she had received a disappointingly low number of nominees for the District's Teacher of the Year award, which is currently publicized only in the Scorecard. She noted that nominations need not come exclusively from Unit Boards, and Mr. Cuneo offered to publicize that fact. At Ms. Storey's request, Ms. Starzec said she would send a reminder to the Unit Presidents.

GNT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Thurtell and Ms. Storey reported that they had identified a person willing to take over as GNT Coordinator, B.J. Sanders of Unit 207. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Ms. Sanders was named to the position effective May 1, 2017. Mr. Thurtell noted that at the Board's next meeting Ms. Sanders would lead a discussion about possibly holding GNT qualifiers at the club level instead of at the Unit level.

ACBL BOARD REPORT AND VISIT FROM ACBL PRESIDENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ms. Storey introduced Bob and Barbara Heller, ACBL President and Education Committee Chair respectively.

Mr. Heller offered that Mr. Cuneo was an excellent addition to the ACBL Board and had stepped into an active role on the Board much more quickly than the typical new member. Mr. Cuneo will serve on two of the ACBL's three principal task forces in 2017: ACBL/club relations and coordination between the ACBL Board and the Board of Governors.

Mr. Heller reported that he was having a "fantastic" experience at the Houston Regional. Mr. Humphrey noted that attendance at the tournament is normally between 3100 and 3200 tables, but would be down to about 3000 tables this year as the tournament dates had been changed in order to avoid a conflict with the NFL's Super Bowl, which will be held in Houston on the day the tournament was originally scheduled to end. He noted the change of dates had brought the tournament into conflict with several other Regionals. Mr. Heller observed that there were too many regionals at the same time as Houston and noted that other regionals in the same week were also suffering as a result.

Mr. Cuneo reported that the ACBL is searching for a new CEO to replace Robert Hartman, who will work a reduced schedule until a replacement is installed, which ACBL hopes will be on August 1.

OLD BUSINESS

Learn Bridge in a Day

Mr. Shirey reported that Unit 183's most recent LBIAD had drawn 43 attendees, and about another 20 people had expressed interest but had not attended due to scheduling conflicts. Ms. Roach noted that

LBIAD had recently drawn 63 attendees in Canton. Ms. Starzec offered to provide the services of Unit 174's LBIAD coordinator to other Units that would like to set up LBIAD programs.

Formation of Unit 254

Ms. Storey reported that the formation of Unit 254 had been approved by ACBL, and that she was waiting for the appointment of a Unit Representative to the District Board.

Dispute Concerning District Reimbursement of Flight C GNT Team

Ms. Storey noted that the Board had been informed about the matter at its previous meeting and had decided to take no action. She reported that the dispute was still unresolved, and that the Executive Committee believed that the four original members of the team should be permitted to keep the District money, as that would leave each member of the team with an equal reimbursement amount once the reimbursement provided by Unit 207 to its members was taken into account. Hearing no objections from the Board, Ms. Storey pronounced the matter closed.

GNT AND NAP Reimbursement Policies

Mr. Davis offered a set of proposals concerning the District's GNT and NAP reimbursement policies. One set concerned the effect of Zero Tolerance violations on reimbursement amounts, the other concerned the way that reimbursement monies were to be split among those representing the District at NABCs. After considerable discussion and some modifications to the proposals, the following policies were unanimously adopted.

Civil Behavior (GNT)

Players representing, and subsidized by, District 16 are expected to comport themselves in a civil manner at the bridge table. A player receiving a Zero Tolerance (ZT) penalty at the nationals will be considered by the District 16 Board of Directors *prima facie* not to be so comporting. Such a player will have a *minimum* 25% reduction in his/her District 16 subsidy. The Executive Committee of the Board will make the *final* determination of the *actual* reduction (which could be 100% if the behavior is particularly egregious). Should the same player receive a second ZT penalty, no subsidy will be paid to said player and all other team members will receive a 25% total reduction. Should a different player receive a ZT (the second for the team), the 25% minimum (as above) will apply to said player and all other non-offending team members will receive a 25% total reduction. Should the team receive a third ZT penalty (regardless of which player receives the ZT penalty), *no subsidy will be paid to any team member*.

In addition, any team member receiving a ZT penalty at the District-level GNT competition will have a minimum 25% reduction in his/her District 16 subsidy. Any subsequent ZT penalty at the nationals by such a team member will be considered to be his/her second ZT, but the team's first ZT.

Civil Behavior (NAP)

Players representing, and subsidized by, District 16 are expected to comport themselves in a civil manner at the bridge table. A player receiving a Zero Tolerance (ZT) penalty at the nationals will be considered by the District 16 Board of Directors *prima facie* not to be so comporting. Such a player will have a *minimum* 25% reduction in his/her District 16 subsidy. The Executive Committee of the Board will make the *final* determination of the *actual* reduction (which could be 100% if the behavior is particularly egregious). Should the same player receive a second ZT penalty, no subsidy will be paid to said player and the other player will receive a 25% total reduction. Should the other player receive a ZT (the second for the pair), the 25% minimum (as above) will apply to said player. Should the pair receive a third ZT penalty (regardless of which player receives the ZT penalty), *no subsidy will be paid to either player*.

In addition, any player receiving a ZT penalty at the district-level GNT competition will have a minimum 25% reduction in his/her District 16 subsidy. Any subsequent ZT penalty at the nationals by such a player will be considered to be his/her second ZT, but the pair's first ZT.

District 16 NAP Subsidy

Congratulations on earning the right to represent District 16 in the North American Pairs (NAP) at the Nationals! The District 16 subsidy (if any) will be split equally among the two players who represent the District at the Nationals. A separate check will be sent to each player.

It is certainly possible that the two players may be from different units. *Some* units, at their sole discretion, might choose to offer an *additional* subsidy to players from their unit. (This could well mean that one member of the pair will have a greater *total* subsidy (District + Unit) than the other player because of the relative contribution of his/her unit.) Each player is certainly allowed to approach his/her home unit and ask for a subsidy. The different *autonomous* units may well offer different subsidies (or no subsidy at all.)

Members of the pair may choose to enter into *private* agreements amongst themselves concerning District and Unit subsidies and the sharing thereof. The District will not adjudicate these *private* agreements should subsequent disagreements arise amongst the pair members. Pair members would do well to make any such private agreements clearly written and signed.

_____ signed _____

District 16 NAP Coordinator

District 16 GNT Subsidy

Congratulations on earning the right to represent District 16 in the Grand National Teams (GNT) at the Nationals! The District 16 subsidy (if any) will be split equally among the (four, five or six) team members who represent the District at the Nationals. (Please note that the larger the team, the less money *per player*.) A separate check will be sent to each team member *after* the size of the team has been determined. (A team of four may choose to add one or two players, but the *total* subsidy will *not* change.)

It is certainly possible that not all of the team members will be from the same unit. *Some* units, at their sole discretion, might choose to offer an *additional* subsidy to team members of *their* unit. (This could well mean that some team members will have a greater *total* subsidy (District + Unit) than other team members because of the relative contributions of their unit(s). Each team member is certainly allowed to approach his home unit and ask for a subsidy. The different *autonomous* units may well offer different subsidies (or no subsidy at all.)

Team members may choose to enter into *private* agreements amongst themselves concerning District and Unit subsidies and the sharing thereof. The District will not adjudicate these *private* agreements should subsequent disagreements arise amongst the team members. Team members would do well to make any such private agreements clearly written and signed.

_____ (signed) _____

District 16 GNT Coordinator

NEW BUSINESS

Setting Dates for District Charity Games

Ms. Strohmer said that she wanted to revive these dormant games, and proposed 2017 dates for them. Mr. Humphrey noted that the best days of the week would be Mondays through Thursdays, so as not to conflict with sectionals, and after discussion and motion made and duly seconded the Board unanimously approved the dates March 27, 28, 29 and 30. Ms. Strohmer said she would send out instructions to clubs for setting up the games. (March 27 was later changed to March 20 to avoid a conflict.)

Renewal of LBIAD License

Mr. Cuneo requested that the Board give him permission to renew the District's LBIAD license. Upon motion duly made and seconded the request was approved unanimously.

2021 NABCs in Austin

Ms. Sanders reported on planning for the 2021 NABCs, which will be held in Austin. She noted that the playing site will be the J.W. Marriott hotel downtown, and that parking there will be prohibitively expensive. She will explore having shuttle buses available for players not staying within walking distance.

Tournament Conflicts

Mr. Riley noted that there are a significant number of conflicting tournament dates within the District. Ms. Storey noted that there are significantly more tournaments than there are suitable weeks in the year in which to hold them, so to reduce conflicts it would be necessary, in part at least, to reduce the number of tournaments, and that increasing the physical distance between tournaments might accomplish this end. Mr. Heller asked how the Board would feel about reducing the number of Regionals available annually to each District from six to five. There were no indications of interest in this proposal.

Ms. Storey proposed creating a task force to study the issue and asked for volunteers. Mr. Thurtell, Mr. Riley, Ms. Brown, Mr. Davis and Mr. Pearlman agreed to serve as members. Mr. Thurtell will act as chair. Mr. Humphrey requested that he be consulted, and Mr. Morris offered to provide assistance and to get input from Eddie Wold.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pearlman

Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16