

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

July 7, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Austin Doubletree Hotel in Austin TX on July 7, 2018. In attendance were:

Executive Officers

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

Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)

Rebecca Brown	Unit 172	
Kathleen Malcolmson	Unit 174	
Jim Bauer	Unit 176	
Steve Shirey	Unit 183	
Dave Ticen	Unit 187	
Carolyn Worsham	Unit 201	
Virginia Noelke	Unit 204	(alternate for Neal Perlman)
Larry David	Unit 207	
Jo Smith	Unit 224	
Gay Roach	Unit 225	
Lynn Sykes	Unit 233	

Non-Voting Board Members

Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Directors

Paul Cuneo, Director

Committee Chairs

Nancy Strohmer	Charity
Jim Thurtell	Disciplinary
Laura Delfeld	Intermediate/Novice
Kim Brinkman	Membership
Tomi Storey	Tournaments

Standing Positions

BJ Sanders
Ira Hessel

GNT Coordinator
Scorecard Editor

Call to Order and Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM and a quorum was confirmed. Due to a very full agenda, President Brown asked that everyone be recognized and stand to speak so that all present might hear what is said.

President Brown began by greeting our two newest members - Kathleen Malcomson, the new representative from Unit 174, and Kim Brinkman, Membership Chair.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by David Pearlman and seconded by Nancy Strohmer to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Written reports also were received from Paul Cuneo, ACBL D16 Director, Charity chair and the GNT Chair as part of the Consent Agenda.

Robly Contract Renewal

Mr. Cuneo reminded the Board that the contract was up for renewal. This is used for District communication. A motion was made by Nancy Strohmer to approve the expense and seconded by Lynn Sykes. The motion passed by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Leightman presented his written report and stated that the District remains financially strong and basically unchanged from 2017. No red flags are showing in any area. Detailed financial statements will be provided at the September board meeting.

ACBL D16 Board of Directors Report

Mr. Cuneo submitted a written statement of his motions that have a second reading/vote at the BOD meeting at the Summer NABC in Atlanta. The first is allowing Open Sectionals in conjunction with NLM Regionals that will allow for increased masterpoint awards in the sectional while the second is a by-law change to impose term limits on the Board of Governors. Mr. Cuneo is also heading up the Search Committee for a new Executive Director of the ACBL.

Mr. Cuneo also explained an issue for the upcoming election for D16 1st and 2nd Alternates. Because no candidate registered prior to the ACBL deadline, the 1st Alternate position was left unfilled. Per ACBL rules, the 2nd Alternate automatically assumes that position of January 1, 2019, and the 2nd Alternate position becomes

vacant. A discussion was held on possibly electing a candidate in September, but that time frame needs to be verified with the ACBL election committee. Any member interested in running for the vacant 2nd alternate position should notify Tomi Storey prior to the September 2nd meeting in Dallas and those names will be distributed prior to the meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Old Business

Mexico Units Asset Allocation

David Pearlman reported on his committee's mediation on a division of assets between the newly created Unit 254 and the original Unit 173. Under ACBL rules, a new Unit created from the territory of an existing unit is entitled to assets in proportion to the percentage of members transferring to the new unit. When the units were unable to agree on such a division, pursuant to the ACBL rules, the district mediates. President Brown, Treasurer Dan Leightman, and 2nd Vice President Pearlman made up the Mediation Committee, with Mr. Pearlman serving as the liaison between the two units. The committee agreed that the District is bound to defer to the ACBL's award of a charter to Unit 254. After prolonged mediation the two Units agreed to a transfer of 25% of cash assets from Unit 173 to Unit 254 and signed an agreement to share equipment used to run events. This concluded the matter. President Brown also thanked Mr. Pearlman for his work on this issue.

Mr. Pearlman also stated that Unit 254 inquired about the allocation of the Regionals. He suggested that Unit 254 President Sherry McHarg attend the next meeting to present a proposal. President Brown reminded those present that District 16 controls the regionals and may assign them at its discretion.

Scorecard

President Brown stated that at the last meeting in Houston there was a discussion about changing the delivery method from individual mailings to mailings to central locations (such as delivery to Unit representatives or to clubs.) The Board voted to experiment with distribution of the Scorecard to the individual clubs after confirmation by Unit representatives that their respective clubs would agree to receive them. The suggested opt out had not been successful; over the past several years, only 91 members out of 8,700 chose to do so, and another suggestion of sending Scorecards to unit reps was not deemed to be practical. The motion was made at the time to try sending copies to the clubs for a period of 2 years, starting in May of 2018 as a trial. The motion passed as amended. President Brown requested that each unit notify her of the club decisions by April 1. Clubs were contacted to determine how many copies would be needed, but some did not respond; others refused to handle the distribution; others were unable to receive delivery at their sites; and others requested extremely low numbers of copies. Approximately 50 locations were identified, requesting anywhere between 10 and 1,000 copies. In discussions with Scorecard Editors Ira and Ellen Hessel and Scorecard Committee Chair Donna Compton, it was determined that while postage would decrease, there would be other charges incidental to the delivery changes. In the interim, the Executive Committee decided that the delivery change as voted on could not be implemented properly and voted to delay implementation of the change until the full Board could consider it further discussion. The Executive Committee considered that the

vote had been taken on a well-intentioned but inadequately informed basis. President Brown asked that the Board reconsider the implementation of the program as voted on at the previous meeting.

The District also received a memo from Unit 176 in the interim, stating that it would not pay more than \$3,000 annually for the Scorecard, regardless of their actual invoice for subscription dues. President Brown informed Eileen Davidoff, Unit 176 President, that such a unilateral decision would be in violation of the District's By-Laws and could cost the Unit its good standing.

Jim Bauer asked: 1. What authority does the Executive Committee have to not follow the vote of the Board; and, 2. Why was no one on the Board notified of the delay? President Brown agreed that notification of delayed implementation should have been given and apologized. She reiterated that the Executive Committee had not overturned the prior Board vote but had merely delayed action on it. She then requested that the Board reconsider the previous action based on the findings since the last meeting.

An intense discussion followed. Mr. Cuneo asked if we had specific data on the changes of costs in distribution. Dr. Hessel spoke about a number of Scorecard issues, but firmly stated that delivering the Scorecard only to clubs shows a lack of understanding of the Scorecard's purpose. He also said that limited mailings would save the District an estimated \$6,000. President Brown summarized this statement, stating that the savings to the District would be the trade-off for limited mailings, but that this is not necessarily desired by the membership. Mr. Bauer questioned again why, after Board approval of the motion, that we were not implementing it, since the savings was what the original motion hoped to achieve. Several of the smaller units spoke out to say that hard copies of the Scorecard are the preferred method of communication for them and for their members, especially since games are not being held in brick and mortar clubs as they are in some of the larger districts. Jo Smith explained that in Abilene and San Angelo there are no places to deliver copies. Laura Delfeld, District I/N Chair, stated hard copies of the Scorecard mailed to newer players make them feel more like a part of the community. Carolyn Worsham also spoke to this issue, saying that the aging members of her unit would suffer if there were no home delivery of the Scorecard. Tomi Storey spoke to problems with club responses, from no place to deliver, to clubs who felt that the responsibility of the distribution should not be placed on them. Mr. Bauer stated that he fully agrees that the Scorecard is a valuable asset for the District, but that all data he has been hearing is only anecdotal. If we actually had this data, he felt we could make an informed decision. President Brown spoke to Mr. Bauer's point: the action of the Board stands until there is a formal motion to reconsider. The motion to reconsider was made by Lynn Sykes and seconded by Carolyn Worsham. The units voted, and the weighted votes were tallied and counted by Tomi Storey and David Pearlman. The motion to reconsider passed. Such reconsideration will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Regionals at Sea Update

The ACBL is coordinating Regionals at Sea with the travel agencies and the units affected. They are requesting a date in January of 2019 that conflicts with the NAP's at

the San Antonio sectional and is the week before the Houston Regional. Jim Thurtell made a motion, seconded by Larry Davis, to deny the request because we don't want to do anything to conflict with either. Motion passed unanimously.

STaC Week Update

Tomi Storey said this year's STaC was very successful. We had 1,928.5 tables for a total of \$11,571. We owed the ACBL \$8,404 and, after all checks are in, we will have a profit of \$3,512.

New Business

By-laws Amendment

A Petition to Amend By-Laws, previously published in the Scorecard, would allow Executive Committee members who are not Unit representatives the right to vote. David Pearlman stated that in his opinion, we have enough members to separate Executive officers and voting members, giving the board a good structure that should remain as it is. President Brown felt that it seemed contradictory for the Executive Committee, if charged to handle affairs between meetings, not to be able to vote in actual meetings. Jim Bauer questioned whether his vote for Unit 176 would be diluted if, for example, Tomi Storey, as Executive secretary, also voted. It was agreed that it would, although carrying a lesser weight. Mr. Bauer made a motion to deny the Petition, seconded by Mr. Davis, and that motion passed.

Security at Regionals

There was a serious problem at the Houston Regional with the theft of collected cash. The ACBL is now working on policies to address security, but President Brown feels that as a District, it would behoove us to consider how we want to handle the transfer and the security of funds. At the very least, we should have daily transfers to a safe on the venue premises, if that is not already being done. Until this daily handoff takes place, the money is the responsibility of the DIC. After that, it becomes the responsibility of the Unit. Mr. Cuneo said that under ACBL policies, daily handoffs from the DIC to the Unit will be required.

Unit Representatives Attendance and Reports to Units

President Brown asked that all representatives take their responsibilities seriously. As Unit reps, you have an obligation to report back to your boards and members about what happens here, either by written or oral reports. Dr. Hessel suggested that since the Scorecard cannot show minutes until they are approved, it might be helpful if President Brown could give a summary of the issues from each meeting.

Membership

Kim Brinkman was appointed by President Brown to serve as Membership Chair. She will also be working with Bert Onstott on membership trends, so her position will also serve as a marketing position for new members.

Webmaster

John Magyari of Unit 174 has agreed to become District Webmaster and Mr. Onstott has graciously agreed to work with him on the transition.

President Brown gave a heartfelt "thank you!" to Bert Onstott for his years of service as our District Webmaster and Membership Chair. His dedication has been very noteworthy! The Board wishes him continued good luck with his successful bridge club.

Proposed Policy RE GNT and NAP eligibility

President Brown thanked BJ Sanders as GNT Chair for running an excellent event and congratulated the winners of the various flights. She also gave some background on the ineligibility of a player in the Superflight of the GNT. It was determined by the ACBL that Mr. John Zilic was ineligible to play, as he is currently not a member in good standing. After extensive talks with the ACBL, the team will be allowed to replace Mr. Zilic and play in the National event. At the time Mr. Zilic played at the District Level, neither the DIC or the GNT coordinator were aware of the ineligibility. President Brown proposed that in the future, the NAP and GNT Coordinators will review the ACBL list of players not in good standing two weeks prior to the event to be sure all members are eligible. She also proposed that on the day of the event, the District GNT/NAP Coordinator, in conjunction with the event DIC, review eligibility once more. A motion made to this effect was seconded and passed unanimously.

Request from Unit 174 to Host BPTW

Kathleen Malcomson made a motion that District 16 fund the \$1,000 needed to host the Best Practices Teachers Workshop at the Houston Regional in 2019. The motion was seconded by Larry Davis and passed unanimously.

Awards Committee

Larry Davis and his Awards Committee have made a motion for presenting District Awards moving forward. The Jacoby Award process will not be changed – the decision of the award is solely in the hands of the standing awards committee. Units are the only entities who can propose nominees. If there is no nominee who is worthy, there will be no award presented that year. In the case of the Texas Star, Mexico has a larger presence within the District now, and it is suggested that we rename the award the

District 16 Star. Mr. Davis presented this as a motion, seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Request from Unit 176 to Host NAP/GNT

Jim Bauer presented a request for Unit 176 to be reconsidered in the rotation for the NAP and GNT. Ira Hessel stated that traditionally the NAP's have always been in San Antonio and Austin, due to a more central location. Mr. Thurtell said that the problem for Dallas was the cost of the rooms. Mr. Bauer said that he would speak to his Unit Board about its willingness to absorb the room charge and report back at the next District meeting.

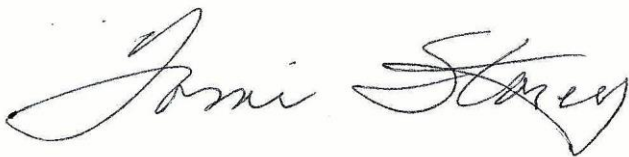
Action Item Review and Meeting Critique

President Brown thanked Unit 207 for an excellent turnout and a well-run event. It was also stated that the Scorecard issue would be taken up again in September. Gay Roach reminded everyone of the Tyler Sectional July 27-29. Jo Smith asked everyone to attend the Abilene Regional in October. BJ Sanders thanked the Executive Committee for swift answers when the GNT issue came to light.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Tomi Storey
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16