

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

July 6, 2019

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in the Colonnade Room of the Omni Hotel in San Antonio Hotel on July 6, 2019. In attendance were:

Executive Officers

Rebecca Brown	President
Nancy Strohmer	1 st Vice President
Betty Starzec	2 nd Vice President
Tomi Storey	Executive Secretary

Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)

Rebecca Brown	Unit 172	
Kathleen Malcomson	Unit 174	
Jim Thurtell	Unit 176	(alternate for Jim Bauer)
Kim Brinkman	Unit 183	(alternate for Steve Shirey)
Carolyn Worsham	Unit 201	
Neal Perlman	Unit 204	
Larry Davis	Unit 207	
Lonnie Yee	Unit 209	(alternate for Flo Curry)
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
Ed Rawlinson	Education
Lauri Laufman	Intermediate/Novice
Sandy Potts	Membership
Carolyn Worsham	Publicity
Tomi Storey	Tournaments

Standing Positions

BJ Sanders	GNT Coordinator
John Magyari	Internet Coordinator/Webmaster
Roxie Tom	NAP Coordinator
Jack Lavigne	Recorder
Scott Humphrey	Tournament Coordinator
Betty Starzec	Board of Governors

Visitors

Jerry Harrington	Unit 172 President
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Call to Order and Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM and a quorum was confirmed. Introductions were made around the table by all attendees. President Brown again asked that everyone be recognized and stand to speak.

Introduction of Guests

Jerry Harrington, President of Unit 172 (San Antonio area) was formally introduced to the group.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously. Written reports also were received from the Charity chair and STaC as part of the consent agenda

Financial Report

Mr. Leightman was not able to attend this meeting, so financial reports will be presented at the fall meeting.

ACBL D16 Board of Directors Report

Mr. Cuneo wanted to discuss two major items. The Board of Directors and the Board of Governors have been working on restructuring. After polling both, the biggest consensus was to form committees to handle bridge items and those committees would

be handled mostly through the Board of Governors. They would take over a great deal of the committee work currently handled through the BoD. Two committees have already formed – one is Competition and Conventions and the other is a Masterpoints Committee. There are a number of other committees that will take over a great deal of research and planning. This will allow the BofD to handle more strategy and get much better input. It will also make the BoG more relevant. Presently, he doesn't see that downsizing the BoD will happen anytime soon. This is a first step in trying to make that happen.

Mr. Cuneo has been working on tournaments since 2017. With the help of David and Daniel Rodney, they have been analyzing data. Looking at trends, tournaments are declining. As an example, 30% of attendees of the Lone Star Regional did not return the following year. Marketing is essential. Within that 30%, two-thirds of the players fall in the I/N category. Those players represent 70% of the ACBL total membership. They also discovered a very low percentage of the 0-50 players attend even local events. This needs to be addressed at the club level. Players continue to age – in 2005, the average age was 58. Today it is 65.

President Brown spoke for the District to thank Mr. Cuneo for his dedication and his substantial efforts in so many areas on the ACBL Board of Directors.

OLD BUSINESS

Scorecard

President Brown spoke for Mr. Bauer, who was not in attendance, on his Scorecard Report. The report updated us on what is currently happening. Selection between print or digital was about 50-50 among the Units. Mexico is digital by default; they have never received paper copies. It was agreed at our last meeting to give this a two-year trial. Mr. Bauer is still marshalling numbers about the cost for print and digital and other fixed costs. Thus far, he believes we still need some time to decide whether the allowable costs of printing and postage will affect the cost of the print only subscription. At this point, digital costs will remain at \$1.51 per year per member and the print version at \$3.60, with an asterisk that either at the end of the trial or as soon as final figures become available, those costs could change.

Mexico Committee

Tomi Storey presented her committees findings and recommendation on several issues. She first thanked all the members of the committee on their involvement and dedication.

There were 4 items to address:

1. Allocation of the regional tournament currently held in San Miguel de Allende.

Unit 173 (Mexico City) has hosted this event since its inception in 1969. For the past 5-6 years they have held it in SMA. After the formation of Unit 254 (San Miguel), that unit has requested the regional be assigned to them. The current situation is that Unit 173 hosts, Unit 254 helps with volunteers, and the profits are split between the two 60-40. The issue we addressed was to either leave the regional with 173, reassign it to 245, or work out a split, with a pattern of every other year, or two years to Unit 173 and one to Unit 254. The committee unanimously recommended that the tournament remain with Unit 173 and that the current split in profits continue. President Brown called the question and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Digital Copies of the Scorecard. Currently Mexico unit receives digital copies and they aren't charged. The committee recommends that since the Scorecard is not available in Spanish, this policy continue.
3. Should Mexico pay table fees? The committee asks that we do future investigation and discuss at a later date.
4. Consider changing the Profit Structure of the current regionals
The regional held in SMA (often called the Mexican Nationals) has a 60-40 profit split after expenses between 173 and 254, with all profits remaining in Mexico to promote bridge. The Puerto Vallarta Regional is a 75-25 split, with 75% paid to the district; this money is also earmarked for subsidy to the Scorecard. The committee recommends this structure remain.

NEW BUSINESS

I/N and Teacher of the Year

President Brown formally introduced Lauri Laufman as the new I/N chair. She also told us the previous chair Laura Delfeld had also served as the committee head to handle the District Teacher of the Year Award. In her capacity as President, she has split these two functions. Ms. Laufman will serve as I/N chair and Buck Buchanan will chair the District Teacher of the Year Award committee.

Board of Governors Vacancy

There are now two vacancies on the Board of Governors. If anyone has interest in serving or has suggestions, please notify President Brown.

Unit 225 Bridge Education

Gay Roach brought up the success Unit 225 has had teaching 4th and 5th graders in a local primary school. Children have had an increase in math skills and the school board is now endorsing the program. They have now had so many students sign up that they couldn't handle them all. President Brown requested a write-up with pictures on this so we can distribute this great success story.

GNT Compensation

BJ Sanders submitted a proposal asking for future compensation for GNT entrants. Historically, we have compensated the first-place teams for each level. In early February, the ACBL awarded a second place in Flights B and C if there were 10 teams participating in the finals. This year we have a second team going in Flight B. Ms. Sanders requested the Board approve \$1600 for this second team, to be awarded only after they attend and participate in the event. ACBL pays entry fees for the first-place teams for Day 1-2, but not second. Ms. Sanders moved that we pay the travel and entry fees for this additional team. Moved, seconded and approved.

National Surcharge at NLM Regionals

President Brown discussed an issue that has been ongoing about charging the \$1.00 National Surcharge at NLM regionals. Since NLM Regionals are now very popular, should we be charging the same surcharge that we implement at Open Regionals? The initial reaction in prior meetings was that we should, but no official action was taken. Tomi Storey, within the context of a project she is doing to go through old minutes to find motions made and not carried forward or policies voted on and not implemented, found that in 2009 President Larry Davis asked this same question. There was no note that this passed but it has certainly been a point for some time and needs addressing. When asked when the next Nationals might be held in District 16, Mr. Cuneo said that this was now being handled by a 3rd party to negotiate contracts. President Brown felt that since this was the very group that we want to bolster, perhaps a relief on this fee might be in order. Mr. Humphrey moved that we dispense with this surcharge until future notice. Seconded and approved.

Education Report

Ed Rawlinson submitted a report but asked that we discuss an item involving a long-standing practice to subsidize units that hold Director's courses. The current practice is that the District pays the ACBL fees for the Director's Refresher Course, which is the last day of the Club Director's Course. Mr. Rawlinson proposed that if a Unit hosts a Director's Course of any type at a Regional, the District will subsidize up to 40% of the ACBL costs to reduce or eliminate the deficit, but the reimbursement will not exceed the deficit. This might even save the District if we have submitted a 40% payment when the Unit made a profit. Moved, seconded and approved.

National Teacher of the Year

Betty Starzec announced that Buck Buchanan, our District 16 Teacher of the Year, is now one of the 5 finalists for the ABTA National Teacher of the Year. We wish him the best.

Charity Report

Nancy Strohmer reports that the first Austin NABC Fundraising games will take place November 17-23, 2019. She thanked Sharon Holger of Austin for designing the flyer that will be sent to clubs in August and October. Games will offer extra black points, so please notify your clubs and play.

Aces and Knaves

Betty Starzec informed us that there are currently three movies out that support the game of bridge. One is Double Dummy, one is The Kids' Table (funded by the ACBL Educational Foundation), and the last is Aces and Knaves, providing an overview of Bridge. Mrs. Starzec is very excited about this one and encouraged us to see it. She sees it as a wonderful tool to promote our game. She worked with Jackie Pare at the Educational Foundation to reduce the viewing costs. The reduction in cost dropped from \$3000 to \$1000, with \$500 of that being subsidized by the Educational Foundation. Houston will be showing it at the 2020 Lone Star Regional. She requests \$250 from the District to subsidize the cost to the Houston Unit. Currently the program allows for only one showing per DVD. Moved, seconded, and approved.

Action Item Review and Meeting Critique

President Brown thanked Unit 172 and Tournament Co-Chairs Jeri Tribo and Karen Fillis for a successful and well-run event.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 9:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomi Storey
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16