

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

Jan 22, 2022

An online meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held live in Houston and virtually on the Zoom meeting platform on January 22, 2022. In attendance were:

Executive Officers

Nancy Strohmer	President
Betty Starzec	1 st Vice President
Steve Shirey	2 nd Vice President
Tom Trudeau	Executive Treasurer
Tomi Storey	Executive Secretary

Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)

Ed Rawlinson	Unit 172
Sue Gerard	Unit 173
Lauri Laufman	Unit 174
Scott Nason	Unit 176
Steve Shirey	Unit 183
Dave Ticen	Unit 187
E.W. Sweeney	Unit 201
Neal Perlman	Unit 204
Lew Crippen	Unit 205
BJ Sanders	Unit 207
Gay Roach	Unit 225
Lynn Sykes	Unit 233
Del McDaniel	Unit 254

Non-Voting Board Members

Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Directors

Paul Cuneo, Director

Committee Chairs

Betty Starzec	Awards/Honors
Nancy Strohmer	Charity
Rebecca Brown	Disciplinary
Kristen Onsgard	Education Co-chairs
Patricia Herrera	
Thomas Rush	Lecture Series
Rachell Jackson	Marketing/Publicity
Sandy Potts	Membership
Sam Khayatt	Intermediate/Newcomer Chair

Scott Humphrey
Tomi Storey

Tournament Coordinator
Tournament Chair

Standing Positions

Jack LaVigne	District Recorder
Scott Nason	GNT Coordinator
Sue Caulfield	Scorecard Editor
Betty Starzec	D16 Board of Governors
Nancy Strohmer	D16 Board of Governors
Tomi Storey	D16 Board of Governors
John Magyari	D16 Webmaster

CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM

President Strohmer welcomed everyone. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM CST and a quorum was confirmed.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

President Nancy Strohmer recognized Karen Nussbaum for serving as the chair of the Lone Star regional. She welcomed our newest member to the D16 Board of Directors – Patricia Hererra, Education Chair. Nancy thanked Tomi Storey, Retired Executive Secretary, for her 14 years of service on the board and thanked Dave Becker, Treasurer of Unit 174, for joining us today for the meeting. Also recognized was Paul Cuneo for all his hard work as the District 16 representative to the ACBL board and thanked Rachel Jackson for her tireless work on completing a Policies and Procedure manual for District 16.

Sue Caulfield for her work on creating our first all-digital District 16 Scorecard.

Rebecca Brown thanked President Strohmer for all the work she has done during her term. And Betty Starzec gave Nancy Strohmer a commemorative plaque to recognize her work accomplished during her tenure as President.

The Presidential Extra Mile Award was created to recognize volunteers in the District who have contributed over and above their normal duties. President Strohmer presented the award to Rachell Jackson (2020) for her work drafting a policy and procedures manual, creating the D16 Facebook group page and serving as Publicity/Marketing Coordinator. In addition, Tom Trudeau (2021) was presented with the award for his extensive work as Treasurer. Tom was presented with an etched plaque; Rachell attending by Zoom will receive her plaque at a later date.

ELECTIONS

President Strohmer nominated 1st VP Betty Starzec to succeed her as president and was seconded by Executive Secretary Tomi Storey – Passed.

President Betty Starzec nominated Ken Monzingo to replace her as 1st VP and was seconded in the room – Passed.

Executive Secretary Tomi Storey nominated Dave Ticen to be 2nd VP and was seconded by Scott Nason – Passed.

Past President Strohmer nominated Kristen Onsgard to be Executive Secretary and was seconded in the room – Passed.

Rebecca Brown nominated Tom Trudeau to remain as Treasurer and was seconded in the room – Passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/CONSENT AGENDAS

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 14, 2021 minutes as written. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tom Trudeau submitted the treasurer's report for the twelve months ended 12/31/2021. A motion was made to approve the report, it was seconded and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards

President Starzec thanked the committee for its work. District presidents are now making the appointments for the national Goodwill and Charity committees. Nominations will be requested from the units. Nominations for the D16 Jacoby award will be accepted until July 1st. The award will be presented in Dallas at the Labor Day Regional. Unit Star awards and Goodwill selections are due by Dec 31st.

Education

Patricia Herrera had nothing to report. Kristen O. stated that she and Patricia were working together to assure a smooth transition.

GNT Report

Scott Nason submitted his report. Summary: GNTs are going to be online as in the previous year and over the Memorial Day weekend. Payments and registration will be done via Bridgewinners with a fee of \$10 per session.

I/N

Discussion of prevalence of I/N coordinators in districts and units and tools available. President Starzec suggests understanding best practices available. Past President Strohmer reminded the board that Sam Khayatt won the 2021 district teacher of the year award, reported success in the 99er night events and addition of a 199er game. Kim Brinkman continues managing the 0-50 weekly district game.

Lecture Series

Thomas Rush reported success with the bi-monthly district lecture series having 70-100 attendees per session, and asked that units help in identifying future speakers.

Membership

President Starzec reported (via data from Sandy Potts) that as of 12/31/2021 the district had 7,530 members.

NAP Report

Larry Davis was not present. Nancy Strohmer summarized his proposal increasing stipends as follows:

Flight	Place	\$	X2	Cumulative
A	2 nd	200	400	400
A	3 rd	300	600	1000
B	3 rd	200	400	1400
C	3 rd	200	400	1800
B	4 th	300	600	2400
C	4 th	300	600	3000

Motions were made and seconded to adopt the increase – Passed.

Tomi Storey added that the ACBL is authorizing a Royal STAC as an additional opportunity for F2F clubs to award color points (including gold) at the club level. Scott Humphrey added that there will not be an additional fee from the ACBL to the clubs.

Scorecard

Sue Caulfield reported that she successfully published the first fully online edition. Discussion of Scorecard ad policy and prices followed, and it was proposed that for the rest of 2022, Sectional announcements in the Scorecard would be free and at the Jan 2023 board meeting that pricing structure would be revisited. There was a motion, vote and passed.

TOY-Teacher of the Year

There were applications from many candidates. Congratulations to Sam Khayatt selected as the 2022 Teacher of the Year. President Starzec expressed her appreciation for Ed Rawlinson for stepping up as chair.

Tournament Coordinator

Tomi Storey stated that we need to assure that our tournament sponsors understand that the process of scheduling, modifications, and cancelations MUST go through the District. Scot Humphrey (scott.humphrey@acbl.org) emphasized that all tournament scheduling should begin with him. Either Tomi or Scott H. can assist with problems, but tournament sponsors should not go directly to the ACBL.

Board of Directors Report

The ACBL board of directors has been downsized and Paul Cuneo continues as Director of District 16 and newly created Region 9 comprised of Districts 15 and 16. Paul submitted his report discussing the following:

1. ACBL needs a long-term strategy for incorporation of online clubs
2. ACBL membership is seriously depleted post pandemic
3. Start times of tournament events will be at 10 and 3 instead of 1 and 7.

- Hearings regarding violations of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations with suspension of more than 6 months will be held by the Institute for Bridge Arbitration managed by the American Arbitration Association. Decisions by this board are essentially final.

Board of Governors Report

Vice-President Starzec's report was published in the Scorecard. Her additional comments addressed: a) upcoming elections using ZOOM; b) district town hall meetings; c) free class from Patty Tucker; d) cheating still a major problem for online bridge.

Austin NABC Report

BJ Sanders reported that many people have expressed their appreciation of again playing in person bridge tournament. Most regionals are reporting returns between 45% and 50%; whereas, per Scott, the Houston Regional experienced a 35-40% return rate.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy and Procedures Manual/Job Descriptions

Rachel Jackson thanked participants. A new edition is ready for use.

NEW BUSINESS

Jump Start Youth Bridge

Patty Tucker developed a program and Nancy Strohmer strongly recommended that this be adopted at the unit level. Patty is willing to run the program for any unit wishing to adopt; however, she would like the units to commit to reimbursing any direct expenses. President Starzec stated, after discussion with Patty, it is clear that in running this program effectively there needs to be a school contact. Starzec requested that the information be studied with discussion continuing at the Austin board meeting.

Action Item Review and Meeting Critique

The next meeting will be held at 8:30 AM on July 2, 2022, at the Austin Firecracker Regional IN PERSON and on Zoom. Please mark your calendars.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 9:46AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Onsgard
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16