

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 5, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Doubletree Hotel, Austin, Texas, on July 5, 2014.

Board members, Committee Chairs, and others present:

- Jim Thurtell,.....President, GNT Coordinator, Disciplinary Committee
- Paul Cuneo.....Unit 174 Representative and 1st Vice President
- David Pennington.....Unit 233 Representative and 2nd Vice President
- Lew Levy.....Executive Treasurer
- Rebecca Brown.....Executive Secretary
- Ira Hessel.....Unit 172 Representative
- Tomi FitzGerald.....Unit 176 Representative
- Steve ShireyUnit 183 Representative
- Dee Schade..... Unit 187 Alternate
- Greg Loran.....Unit 197 Representative
- Carolyn Worsham.....Unit 201 Alternate
- Neal Perlman.....Unit 204 Representative
- Steve Penning.....Unit 205 Alternate
- Larry Davis..... Unit 207 Representative
- Jo Smith.....Unit 224 Representative
- Gay Roach..... Unit 225 Representative
- Dan MorseDistrict 16 Director, ACBL Board of Directors
- Robert Morris.....Alternate District 16 Director, ACBL Board of Directors
- Dewitt Hudson District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors
- Betty Starzec District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors
- Jonathan Ernest.....Appellate Coordinator
- Nancy Strohmer.....Charity Coordinator
- Donna Compton.....Scorecard
- Carolyn Pinto.....I/N Coordinator
- Chris Compton.....guest, Unit 176

Call to Order

President Jim Thurtell called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Past Meeting Minutes

Paul Cuneo moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2014 meeting. Betty Starzec seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Lew Levy presented the Treasurer's report, which reflected a \$22,000 payment in connection with the NABC held in Dallas. The Grass Roots Fund showed revenue of \$16,000 for the year thus far, which is more than the budgeted \$10,000 and which is on track for a surplus this year. Paul Cuneo made motion to approve the Treasurer's report (with accompanying Balance Sheet and profit and loss statement through June 2014, and the Budget for Q2) and seconded by Tomi FitzGerald and approved without opposition.

Committee Reports

District Director's Report

Dan Morse reported that the Longest Day held in June yielded \$575,000 last year in support of the Alzheimer's organization and is on track for this year, too. Three District 16 clubs are in the top 8 contribution generators: Austin, Dallas and Beaumont. The ACBL Plus programming will be brought in-house. The ACBL is beginning a new tournament director university this fall; many directors are aging out. The ACBL is also engaging in a major college outreach, with the goals of establishing bridge clubs on campuses and encouraging a staged college bridge bowl.

Charity

Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.) in grants were received from the ACBL committee. The grants were recommended to be awarded as follows: Hospice Austin, Austin, TX (\$5,000); New Day, Arlington, TX (\$2500); Brookwood, Brookshire, TX (\$5,000); Community Partners of Dallas, Dallas, TX (\$5,000); The Living Bank, Houston, TX (\$5,000); Boys and Girls Country, Houston, TX (\$5,000); Guide Dogs of Texas, San Antonio, TX (\$2500)

Betty Starzec move that the committee's recommendations be adopted and Paul Cuneo seconded. Motion carried.

Disciplinary

Jim Thurtell reported that Dan Suty, Houston, received a penalty of 60-days probation.

STaC

STaC week is set for May 4-10, 2015. Almost all monies have been collected for the 2014 STaCs. May other districts join ours to combine our STaCs? Dan Morse believes it is allowable. There was discussion about the possibility of having District 10 join us.

Education

Paul Cuneo reported that Unit 174 has received a grant from the ACBL Education Foundation to offer Learn Bridge in a Day on September 6. All of the District's teachers are invited to attend and hear Patty Tucker present the program. Contact Nancy Strohmer for reservations. The cost is \$20 per person, including lunch and materials. The Unit is doing a flyer campaign to advertise the event



and asking members to place the flyers in community centers throughout the area.

GNT

Jim Thurtell stated that while the District was down four teams over last year, we netted the same revenue. Next year, Flights A and C will compete during the Houston Election Sectional (beginning on Saturday instead of Friday night) and Flight B and will compete in Dallas.

Intermediate/Novice

Carolyn Pinto reported that Unit 183 has offered two "Bridge in a Day" sessions; membership is up over 3% in the Unit due to the constant outreach to new players. She suggests designating an I/N (New Players') service for tournaments.

Scorecard

Ira Hessel reported a big loss in advertiser revenue with the departure of Go Away Travel. He will pursue advertisers of products in an effort to make up the loss.

Mexico Regional

Steve Penning (substituting for Lew Crippen) reported that the District gets 75% of the net revenue from the regional. Last year the District netted approximately \$4,000. The Mexico Regional is planning to add director training courses the weekend before the regional begins. The tournament will be held at the Westin in Puerto Vallarta.

Board of Governors

No report.

Unit Reports

None.

Old Business

1. Junior Camp. Bob Morris, on behalf of Eddie Wold, thanked the District for its contribution to the Junior Camp. There were 13 attendees, half of whom are US Junior Team members who will be going to Turkey to compete. Top Houston players came to practice with the kids. The event was free to participants, possible because of the \$10,000 which was raised to defray expenses. Eddie and Bob hope to offer the event again next year with broader participation.
2. Number of Boards at District Pair Events. Jim Thurtell reported that all those to whom he spoke want 26 or 27 boards; the customers (i.e., bridge players) should get their say. Chris Compton disagreed that most players prefer 26 boards. He opined that a maximum of 24 boards should be played. Those supporting the 26-27 board position agreed that perhaps this should not apply for novice games or night games, when we should play 24 boards. Dan Morse suggested that this decision should not be mandated to the local units, but the matter should be left to their discretion. Tomi FitzGerald noted that there is a negative perception that directors are "running the show" whereas the tournament chair should set the number of boards to be played. Betty Starzec moved and Paul Cuneo seconded that the District recommend that Units have 26 or 27 boards per session for their Open Pair games. Motion carried.



3. Compensation of Treasurer. Deferred.

4. New Business

1. Reimbursement of Unit 176 for ACBL gift baskets. The Executive Committee recommended the reimbursement of \$813, but the request was withdrawn by Tomi FitzGerald in the face of dynamic discussion.
2. Increase of GNT fees. Paul Cuneo moved and Gay Roach seconded that the awards to GNT District winners be increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per team. Motion carried.
3. Unit STaCs. Should one Unit be permitted to join another Unit for purposes of combining their STaCs? It was proposed that Unit STaCs should be treated like tournaments, precluding any Unit within 150 miles of a "live" sectional to join another unit's STaC. Permission for others to join should be sought from Scott Humphrey (who was authorized to make decisions as to allowable "pooling" by Peter Marcus, STaC coordinator for the ACBL.) Jim Thurtell mentioned that West Texas Units should be encouraged to pool their STaCs for better participation.
4. Fast Results. Paul Cuneo recommended the use of Fast Results so that players can get their results virtually automatically. The service is free (though there is a suggested donation of \$100 to the ACBL Education Fund for Regionals and \$25 for Sectionals, which donation would be made by the host unit.) Betty Starzec seconded the motion made by Cuneo, Motion carried.
5. Purchase of AEDs. Paul Cuneo recommended that the District purchase three AED (Defibrillators) for use by District Directors at tournaments. Questions were raised as to whether the ACBL would want their directors to participate; the ACBL has no policy about this. Jim Thurtell spoke with an ACBL lawyer who stated that the organization has no position regarding the resulting liability, if any. Thurtell suggested that we defer the discussion and hear from Tournament Directors as well as do some research on Good Samaritan laws (Jonathon Ernest offered to help with this.) Action deferred

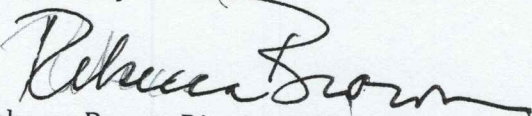
Host Unit

Jim Thurtell recognized the outstanding job done by Dallas Unit 176 in hosting the Nationals. He thanked Unit 207 for the wonderful Regional. He also recognized the lovely art work made by David Pennington which he gifted to all those in attendance.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved without opposition at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted


Rebecca Brown, District 16 Executive Secretary

