



# American Contract Bridge League District 16



## Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

### January 31, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Marriott Houston Westchase Hotel on January 31, 2015.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Lew Levy..... Treasurer
- Rebecca Brown ..... Executive Secretary
- Rebecca Brown ..... Unit 172 Alternate
- Tomi FitzGerald..... Unit 176 Representative
- Steve Shirey..... Unit 183 Representative
- Mabel Byrnes ..... Unit 187 Alternate
- Greg Loran ..... Unit 197 Representative
- Carolyn Worsham..... Unit 201 Representative
- Neal Perlman ..... Unit 204 Representative
- Larry Davis ..... Unit 207 Representative
- Jo Smith..... Unit 224 Representative
- Gay Roach..... Unit 225 Representative
- Joan Paradeis..... Unit 353 Representative
- Dan Morse..... District 16 Director, ACBL Board of Directors
- Bob Morris.....Second Alternate District 16 Director, ACBL Board of Directors
- Dewitt Hudson..... District 16 BOG Representative
- Betty Starzec..... District 16 BOG Representative
- Jonathan Ernest.....Appellate Coordinator
- Nancy Strohmer ..... Charity Coordinator
- Scott Humphrey..... Tournament Coordinator
- Melody Euler..... NAOP Coordinator
- Carolyn Pinto..... I/N Coordinator
- Patricia Bell..... Unit 201 guest
- Beverly Cheatham .....President, Unit 174

### Call to Order

President Jim Thurtell called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

## **Election of Officers**

Jim Thurtell called for Nominations for President. Tomi Fitzgerald nominated Paul Cuneo, second by Betty Starzec. Paul Cuneo was elected by acclamation. As his first act as President, Paul Cuneo recognized Jim Thurtell for his outstanding tenure as president.

Next, President Cuneo called for nominations for 1st Vice President. Nancy Strohmer nominated Tomi Fitzgerald, second by Jim Thurtell. Dewitt Hudson placed David Pennington's name in nomination, second by Larry Davis. After a motion to close nominations by Dan Morse, second by Jim Thurtell, the candidates were asked to leave the room. A vote by show of hands was taken; Tomi Fitzgerald was elected by a majority of those present.

Jim Thurtell nominated Greg Loran as 2nd Vice President, second by Neal Perlman. Tomi Fitzgerald moved to close nominations, second by Betty Starzec. Greg Loran was elected by acclamation.

## **Past Meeting Minutes**

Tomi Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2014 meeting. Bob Morris seconded. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report update, along with a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statement, dated December 31, 2014, were presented. Also presented was the 2014 end of year actual v. budget and a preliminary 2015 budget. The District ended 2014 with an excess of revenues over expenses of \$18,257.87 (almost twice last year's), primarily due to ACBL's Grass Roots funding.

Dan Morse moved to approve the report, Jo Smith seconded, motion carried without opposition.

## **Committee Reports**

*NB: Only Committees with reports will be listed here.*

### **District Director's Report**

Dan Morse reported that the early start on Monday of the regional seems to be working well. The "Longest Day" generated almost \$600,000 for the Alzheimer's Association. ACBL is considering extending it for a second day next year. Decline in membership continues to be of concern, including the decline in tournament attendance. Hopefully, the Houston regional will exceed 3,000 tables so that we will be able to keep the extra regional.

ACBL is trying to encourage college bowl participation by offering more subsidies for college teams to go to the NABCs. District representatives were urged to contact universities in their areas to establish bridge clubs on campus.

### **Awards**

Scott Humphrey announced that the Texas Star awards will be given before the afternoon session on Saturday. Nominations for the Jacoby Award are due by June 30 and will be announced at the Labor Day regional.

### **STaC**

District STaC week is set for May 4-10, 2015. For 2016, the District STaC schedule is uncertain since the Grass Roots games are now set for May, 2016. Scott Humphrey will be the DIC for STaC week. Tomi reminded the Board of changes which were approved at the last meeting concerning



regional STaCs and the need for cooperation within the regions to pick agreeable dates. Tomi also reported that the District is still pursuing coupling with District 10 for STaCs

### **Unit Reports**

1. Larry Davis strongly encouraged the use of a mentor program.
2. Steve Shirey reported that Unit 183 will be offering the Easy Bridge program. Lauren Brown will be the instructor.
3. Carolyn Worsham announced that the Unit 201 raised more than \$6,000 to benefit two charities.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

### ***Waiver of District fees from Unit 187 due in connection with its 2014 regional.***

Dan Morse moved, Tomi Fitzgerald second, that the decision taken by the Executive Committee be ratified by the board to waive the approximately \$1200 in fees due the District by Unit 187. Motion carries.

### ***Financial Verifier***

Motion by Gay Roach, second by Tomi Fitzgerald, to appoint Jim Woodward as Financial Verifier for the District, who will serve without pay. Motion carries.

### ***2015 Budget***

Motion (by Jim Thurtell, second by Greg Loran) to conditionally approve the 2015 Preliminary Budget presented by the Treasurer, which budget will be re-circulated to the board for its ratification at the next meeting. Motion carries.

### ***Teacher Training***

Paul Cuneo proposed that TAP should be offered at two small regionals, to be funded by the District (with attendees paying only for materials and snacks.) He suggested that perhaps the two regionals should be San Antonio and Tyler. Juniors (i.e., under 26) may attend for free. Betty Starzec has offered to do the training. In addition, Paul Cuneo recommended that the District fund two director refresher courses, also at the smaller regionals. The total cost for both programs will be \$4,000 annually. Betty Starzec seconded. Motion passes as to both proposals.

### ***Counting Machine***

Su Doe will give her machine to Scott Humphrey, so no new machine is needed now.

### ***New Format for Agenda***

Paul Cuneo moved that the District adopt a new format for Agenda and policies regarding our board meetings (See Attached). Gay Roach seconded. Motion carried.



## ***District Meeting Time***

Larry Davis suggested that the District meeting should be moved from early morning to after the second session on Saturday afternoon. He will prepare a written proposal for our collective review and consideration

## ***Publicity Chair***

Rebecca Brown moved that Carolyn Worsham be named Publicity Chair. Tomi FitzGerald seconded. Motion carried. Bob Morris suggested that we craft a job description for the position, patterning it after the ACBL description.

## ***Fragrance-free policy***

Betty Starzec moved that the District recommend that all tournaments be fragrance-free. It was seconded by Gay Roach. Motion carried. Betty will write a short article about this for the Scorecard.

## ***Common Game Masterpoints***

Betty Starzec noted that the Common Game does not award ACBL masterpoints for the overall competition across the whole field of participating clubs, suggested that it could be brought to the Board of Governors. After discussion it was agreed not to pursue this idea as it might risk cannibalizing tournaments.

## **Host Unit**

Paul Cuneo recognized the outstanding job done by Houston Unit 174 in hosting the Regional.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved without opposition at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rebecca Brown, District 16 Executive Secretary

