

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

July 2, 2016

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 at 6505 North IH 35 on July 2, 2016. In attendance were:

Executive Officers

Tomi Storey	President
Rebecca Brown	1 st Vice President
Nancy Strohmer	2 nd Vice President, Charity Coordinator
David Pearlman	Executive Secretary

Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)

Ira Hessel	Unit 172
Paul Cuneo	Unit 174
Tomi Storey	Unit 176
Steve Shirey	Unit 183
David Ticen	Unit 187
Neal Perlman	Unit 204
Larry Davis	Unit 207
Jo Smith	Unit 224
Gay Roach	Unit 225
Lynn Sykes	Unit 233
Joan Paradeis	Unit 353

Non-Voting Board Members

Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Directors

Dan Morse, Director

Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Governors

Paul Cuneo (1st Alternate Director to ACBL Board of Directors)
Bob Morris (2nd Alternate Director to ACBL Board of Directors)
Betty Starzec

Committee Chairs

Jonathan Ernest	Appellate
Jim Thurtell	Disciplinary

Call to Order and Quorum

President Storey called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

President Storey noted that minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated by Rebecca Brown and changed in accordance with comments from the Board. Upon motion duly made and seconded the revised minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Cuneo presented the Treasurer's Report in light of Executive Treasurer Levy's absence. He noted that the District continues to be in excellent financial health, with over \$110,000 in total assets on hand and about another \$10,000 receivable from ACBL's Grass Roots Fund.

Mr. Cuneo noted that the District's financials had not been audited in quite some time, that no Verifier's report had been received for any year since 2013, that the report scheduled to be completed in time for this meeting was still in progress, and that overall the verifier process had not been working as anticipated. Mr. Cuneo also suggested that the Executive Committee take over improving the verifier process, which President Storey said that it would. He suggested that a verifier's report be obtained at least once every six months. Ms. Brown and Mr. Thurtell noted that when the verifier position was created it was on the basis that the report should be only once per year. President Storey concurred. She also said that a report would be in place for the next meeting of the Board.

Mr. Cuneo thanked Dr. Hessel for his excellent work on the Scorecard and apologized to Dr. Hessel for any negative implications he might have made concerning the financials of the Scorecard.

Education Committee Report

Mr. Cuneo noted that the District is providing funds to subsidize courses for directors and for teacher training. He reported that this has been well received, with the Austin unit, for example, holding both types of courses for the first time in quite a while. Mr. Cuneo noted also that the Learn Bridge in a Day program is on track, with four teachers in the District having been approved as teachers. Ms. Starzec noted that MiniBridge is also an effective tool, with a much lower cost to implement, and that it has the added advantage of exposing students to the club atmosphere from the outset. Mr. Cuneo noted that the Unit 174 website will have the materials on its website in a few weeks.

Ms. Brown thanked Ms. Starzec for all her teaching efforts. Ms. Starzec thanked her and noted that Austin's Laura Delfeld would now be taking over for Ms. Starzec.

Mr. Morse proposed that Units be allowed to charge \$50 per course. Mr. Davis suggested that any profits above Unit expenses be remitted back to the District. Upon motion made and duly seconded, the proposal was adopted unanimously.

GNT Committee Report

Mr. Thurtell noted that the District level GNT qualifier held in Richardson in May had lost a little over \$800, due to the \$2400 in rent charged by the facility. He proposed moving the event to Houston in 2017, noting that since Houston already has sufficient space no rent expense would be involved. He also proposed limiting the entire event to two days.

Mr. Cuneo added that the GNT schedule should match the tournament schedule, in order to better serve the players. Ms. Storey said the event should have its own director and its own playing space. Mr. Thurtell assured her that it would.

Dr. Hessel said the event should be made more visible, and that the break between playing sessions should be increased. Mr. Cuneo noted that money from ACBL's Grass Roots fund can be spent only on GNT and NAP expenses, and that the fund has is accumulating a surplus that could be better spent to promote the events.

Mr. Thurtell noted that in 2016 the District had eliminated Unit level qualifying in an attempt to increase attendance, but that had attendance had declined. Mr. Morse noted that other Districts that had eliminated the Unit qualifying stage had eventually returned to having it and found that afterward attendance improved.

Upon motion made by Mr. Thurtell and seconded by Ms. Brown, the GNT District qualifier was moved to Houston for 2017, to be held at the Unit 174 election sectional in April.

Ms. Roach then moved to reinstate Unit level qualifying for Flights B and C, and Mr. Shirey seconded.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Intermediate/Novice Coordinator Position

Ms. Storey noted that Carolyn Pinto had resigned as I/N Coordinator, and proposed Laura Delfeld to replace her. Ms. Delfeld was elected by acclamation.

ACBL Board of Directors Report

Mr. Morse reported that a very successful Regional tournament had been held on the BBO website by the Florida district, with people playing at their clubs on their computers.

Mr. Morse also noted that the ACBL had approved a proposal under which five and six person teams playing in events in which each person could win the entire masterpoint award would be charged more than four person teams. He suggested the District consider adopting the same policy. At the suggestion of Ms. Brown such a discussion was deferred until the next meeting of the Board.

Old Business

Amendment of Bylaws

Ms. Brown noted that the Executive Committee had proposed in February to amend the District Bylaws to permit two-year terms for officers. Mr. Morse noted that at the national level terms are for one year each. Various Directors noted that at the District level continuity in office could be a big plus. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to amend the Bylaws by amending Article VI, Section 2, to read as follows:

“Section 2. The Board of Directors of the District shall elect all officers at its first regular meeting each calendar year. Beginning in 2017, and except as hereinafter provided, those elected shall hold office for a term of two years from their election until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified. In the event an officer is unable to complete his/her term of office, an election shall be held at the next first regular meeting held. If needed, the President may appoint an officer to serve until such next regular meeting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall preclude any or all officers serving during 2016 from seeking a second one-year term in 2017. At the conclusion of the second one-year term, if applicable, the office shall be elected for a two-year term.”

New Business

Americans with Disabilities Act

Ms. Storey urged those involved in staging tournaments to be aware that any facilities rented for the tournaments need to be ADA-compliant.

Renewal of Robly License

Mr. Cuneo asked for authorization to spend up to \$600 to renew this license, which is used in the production of the Intermediate/Novice newsletter. Upon motion duly made and seconded the Board approved the expenditure.

Proposal to Create a District Marketing Position

Mr. Cuneo noted that he had submitted a written proposal to create a marketing position for the District. The Board agreed that this position would not be a paid one, and that, if approved, the Executive Committee would search for suitable candidates. Upon motion duly made and seconded the proposal was adopted.

Scorecard Committee Report

Ms. Brown noted that the Scorecard currently runs at a deficit and that a written report identifying four ways in which the deficit might be reduced had been presented to the Board. After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved a ten cent per subscriber increase in the cost of the Scorecard, from fifty cents to sixty.

In addition, Dr. Hessel will put an announcement in the Scorecard offering people the option to elect to receive a single Scorecard at any address to which multiple Scorecards are sent currently.

Ms. Brown asked whether Scorecard announcement fees should be raised, and Dr. Hessel replied that he did not think so.

Other Business

Dr. Hessel offered a report he had created containing various statistical information about attendance at tournaments around the District. Ms. Storey thanked him for the submission but noted that time did not permit further discussion at the current meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pearlman
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16