

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

**February 3, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in the Richmond conference room on the 1st floor of the Westchase Marriot in Houston TX on Feb. 3, 2018. In attendance were:

## **Executive Officers**

Tomi Storey	President
Rebecca Brown	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Nancy Strohmer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Dan Leightman	Executive Treasurer
David Pearlman	Executive Secretary

## **Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)**

Rebecca Brown	Unit 172	
Nancy Strohmer	Unit 174	
Jim Bauer	Unit 176	
Steve Shirey	Unit 183	
Dave Ticen	Unit 187	
Howie Huynh	Unit 197	
Carolyn Worsham	Unit 201	
BJ Sanders	Unit 207	(alternate for Larry Davis)
Jo Smith	Unit 224	
Gay Roach	Unit 225	
Lynn Sykes	Unit 233	
Johnny Johnson	Unit 237	

## **Non-Voting Board Members**

### **Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Directors**

Paul Cuneo, Director

### **Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Governors**

DeWitt Hudson, Representative

## **Committee Chairs**

Scott Humphrey	Awards
Disciplinary	Jim Thurtel
Paul Cuneo	Education

Laura Delfeld  
Appellate

Intermediate/Novice  
Jonathan Ernest

## **Standing Positions**

BJ Sanders

GNT Coordinator

## **Guests**

Jay Whipple  
Shawn Stringer

ACBL President  
District 6 President

## **Call to Order and Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 and a quorum was established.

## **Biennial Election of Officers**

Prior to starting the election process, outgoing President Storey thanked those in attendance for allowing her to serve.

Rebecca Brown was nominated by Jo Smith and elected President by acclamation. From this point, President Brown led the remainder of the meeting.

Nancy Strohmer was nominated by Tomi Storey and elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President by acclamation

A contested election was held for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. David Pearlman was nominated by Steve Shirey and Betty Starzec was nominated by Jo Smith. The candidates were asked to leave the room and closed ballots were cast by all District Representatives. Tomi Storey and Paul Cuneo counted the votes, applying the weights given to each unit. David Pearlman was elected after all votes were tallied.

Dan Leightman was nominated by Rebecca Brown and reelected by acclamation as Executive Treasurer.

Tomi Storey was nominated by Rebecca Brown and elected Executive Secretary by acclamation.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Jim Bauer and seconded by Howie Hyunh to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Education**

Mr. Cuneo discussed the TAP and Director's Refresher Course Expenses. The District subsidizes up to 2 Regionals for TAP in 2018. Units charge \$50 per students and provide

refreshments and pay any out of pocket expenses. One subsidy is available in 2018 for the Director's Refresher Course. D16 pays the ACBL fees, the unit pays any out of pocket expenses and may charge for refreshments. Mr. Cuneo said that he had a request from Carl Owen in Oxaca to match \$600 for a teaching program in their local cultural center. After a brief discussion and a motion by Gay Roach, the matching funds were approved subject to receiving a definite teaching plan from Mr. Owen and securing of the site.

Mr. Cuneo also mentioned that the District LBIAD license was up for renewal. This \$500 gives us up to 5 licenses and Dallas has classes already planned. Betty Starzec moved and Steve Shirey seconded to renew and the motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Leightman provided the Treasurer's report, offering that a slight distortion showed because of 2 Scorecard annual salaries showing in 2017. Future reports will reflect items of income and expense when they occur. Operating revenue does not reflect \$5,058 of NABC surcharge. Betty Starzec brought up the issue of continuing to build up the NABC surcharges with no ceiling on time limits or dollar values. She requested that the Executive Committee look into this and President Brown assured her that it would do so.

### **ACBL Report**

Mr. Cuneo said that subject to approval in Philadelphia, two items will change for NLM Regionals. Firstly, it is under consideration to increase the gold point awards at NLM Regionals from 25% to 33%. For new NLM tournaments, Open Sectionals can be held concurrently.

Jay Whipple, 2018 ACBL President, commended Mr. Cuneo for his work on the ACBL Board of Directors. Under Mr. Cuneo's urging, the ACBL has set new parameters for former players and new life masters. Under the new plan, players are energized that they can re-up as new members. The REACH program brought in 3,300 registrants, with 348 from D16. D16's participation is 2<sup>nd</sup> the ACBL. Funds are earmarked for funding of services and 20% goes back to the districts based on participation.

### **Old Business**

#### **Scorecard**

Jim Bauer stated that the Scorecard accounts for 25% of annual budgets to the units. President Brown said that in contacting and reviewing previous statements from the units, the majority prefer keeping hard copies, so we would be doing so. The Scorecard was never intended as a moneymaking proposition. It is not possible to have a single unit to Opt-in only. Mr. Bauer then suggested that instead of mailing hard copies to individuals, the District consider mailing them to either units or clubs. A discussion followed to how this might help lower cost. Shawn Stringer, D6 President, offered some insight as to how this worked in her District. After further discussion, it was motioned and seconded to try mailings to clubs for the next two years, starting with the May

Scorecard. An amendment was added by Mr. Cuneo to poll each club to verify if they want to receive copies. The motion carried as amended. President Brown requested each unit notify her of the participating clubs no later than April 1.

## **Grand National Teams**

BJ Sanders stated that the first year of club qualifying seems to be going well. However, she asked for the Unit's and the District's help in corrected a scheduling error that was briefly listed on the ACBL website. Flight B begins on Friday evening, not Saturday morning, at the Houston Sectional in May. Mrs. Sanders asked that each Unit representative and each Unit GNT coordinator notify their members of the correct schedule. Mr. Cuneo also said we could use Robley to notify each member in the District.

## **Awards**

Scott Humphrey said this was the first time that the Texas Star awards have not been a secret prior to the presentation and we had more recipients here to accept that ever before. It was also a first to have them presented by an ACBL President and we hope to be able to repeat that honor in the future. Mr. Humphrey also suggested that we establish a new screening process for the Oswald Jacoby Award to be certain that candidates have the appropriate District experience to be considered. President Brown will appoint a committee to determine how best to handle this and other issues.

## **New Business**

### Education Chair

Paul Cuneo will be stepping down in light of his other duties and requested we find a new Education Chair. President Brown nominated Ed Rawlinson and he was elected by acclamation.

### Bridge at Sea

Some concern was raised about the effect of Regionals/Sectionals at sea, departing from Galveston, which conflict with Texas-based tournaments. Jay Whipple offered to provide historical data about participation.

Intermediate/Novice – Betty Starzec commended Laura Delfeld for her hard work and I/N Chairman and for making the Teacher of the Year Award a rousing success this year, with 8 nominees. Mrs. Starzec also moved that the Teacher of the Year receive a monetary remuneration of \$100 and have that be retroactive to our two previous winners. The motion was seconded and passed.

### Collegiate Bridge

Betty Starzec said that Houston was attempting to reinstate the college bridge program at Rice University, with MaryAnn Killebrew at the helm. Mrs. Starzec challenged the District as a whole to work on this. The ACBL contact is Stefanie Threllkeld. President Brown charged the Unit representatives with the task of finding someone to be the contact or the actual coach in each district and to report back at the next meeting.

### Mexico Unit Mediation

President Brown is in receipt of a letter regarding an asset dispute between the Mexico City Unit and the new unit created as a spinoff. Since this was received just prior to our meeting, this will be researched and placed on the July agenda.

### New Committee Members

President Brown asked for suggestions from each unit as to new members for committees and future involvement in District business. She requested each representative to notify her as members are identified.

### NLM Tournament Request

Dallas has requested a NLM Regional. Scott Humphrey stated we are allowed 3 and 2 are already sanctioned. A suggestion was made to hold it in conjunction with an already sanctioned sectional and Mr. Bauer will check with his Unit Board to see what is available.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tomi Storey  
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16