

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

July 6, 2020

An online meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held virtually on the Zoom meeting platform on July 6, 2020. In attendance were:

Executive Officers

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

Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)

Rebecca Brown	Unit 172
Sue Gerard	Unit 173
Lauri Laufman	Unit 174
Jim Bauer	Unit 176
Steve Shirey	Unit 183
Helen Lauderdale	Unit 197
E.W. Sweeney	Unit 201
Neal Perlman	Unit 204
Lew Crippen	Unit 205
BJ Sanders	Unit 207
Scott Vaughn	Unit 209
Jo Smith	Unit 224
Gay Roach	Unit 225
Lynn Sykes	Unit 233
Marsha May	Unit 353

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
Rachell Jackson	Marketing/Publicity
Sandy Potts	Membership
Lew Crippen	Mexico Regional
Tomi Storey	Tournaments

Standing Positions

Jack LaVigne	District Reorder
Scott Nason	GNT Coordinator
John Magyari	Internet Coordinator
Larry Davis	NAP Coordinator
Scott Humphrey	Tournament Coordinator
D16 Board of Governors	Betty Starzec

Guests

Sharon Hoger	President, Unit 172
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Call to Order and Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM and a quorum was confirmed.

A few housekeeping details for the new virtual meetings were explained. Meeting members were reminded that only Unit representatives are able to vote and all voting is done by hands raised virtually.

President Strohmer began the meeting with the introduction of new Unit Representatives and several new committee positions. Sue Gerard is now representing Unit 173, Lauri Laufman will act for 174 and Scott Vaughn will serve Unit 209. The new appointments are as follows: Betty Starzec will be Awards and Honors chair, Larry Davis is the new NAP Coordinator Rachell Jackson takes on the Marketing/ Publicity position. President Strohmer thanked outgoing Scott Humphrey, Roxie Tom, and Carolyn Worsham for their service in these areas. Scott will remain as the Tournament Coordinator/Sanction Applications. Sharon Holger, President of Unit 207, was introduced as our guest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/CONSENT AGENDAS

The minutes were sent out in advance of the meeting, as always. A motion was made and seconded to approve them as written and the motion passed unanimously. Reports for the consent agenda were distributed to all members and will be discussed as needed in the committee reports.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Executive Treasurer Tom Trudeau presented the quarterly financial report. The district remains in a healthy position. Normal operations generated revenues in excess of expenses by \$12,655. The Scorecard has been impacted by COVID-19 cancellations, with the cancellation of announcement fees. Normal operations of the Scorecard were suspended after the April 2020 issue. \$2,500 has been provided to Units for support during the pandemic. Five units applied for assistance.

At the end of H1, total assets of the District totaled \$195,978. There is also a total of \$35,493 remaining in the unused Grass Roots funds to be used for future promotion and support of NAP and GNT events.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards

Betty Starzec presented the issue of what to do with presenting Jacoby, Star, and Goodwill awards in the current COVID-19 environment. Her opinion was that potential recipients have been (and may still be) working for years for this recognition. She suggested that for this year, we move forward with a winner, if there is a worthy candidate, and present the award at the Lone Star Regional in 2021. She also suggested that it be done at a special event. A breakfast was suggested and approved. Both suggestions were supported by the Board.

Mrs. Starzec also showed the Board a design for a new pin for past and future Jacoby award winners. She requested the Board approve the design and vote to cover the cost of the pins for past winners. This was moved and seconded and unanimously approved.

It was also noted by Mrs. Starzec and President Strohmer that our webmaster John Magyari has done a wonderful job of updating lists, honors, and general information. The Board joined in congratulating him for his efforts.

Charity

The D16 charity games held in the month of March totaled 81 games, 742 tables, and 45 participating clubs.

GNT

Scott Nason reported on continuing changes for the District Finals. They have already been moved several times since the beginning of the pandemic and there is now no possibility of holding it during 2020. His submitted report proposed to hold the event either January 15-17, 2021 in Dallas or in March (Dallas) or April (Houston). The latter would offer the possibility of additional club qualifying events. Qualifying for each flight is frozen as of August 6, 2019, so anyone who was eligible for Flights A,B, and C in 2020 will still be eligible, even if they have subsequently exceeding the flight limits. National Finals are currently planned for July 2021 in Providence, RI.

Because of the continuing flux in events due to the pandemic, this decision was tabled until the next Board meeting.

NAP

Larry Davis, new NAP Coordinator, presented an idea for thought by the Board and asked that it be considered for future action. He suggested holding the event as a one-day, two-session final, rather than the current 2-day event. He felt this might promote more participation if entrants knew it would take one day only. He admitted this might result in a smaller table count and less profit for the sponsoring unit. The Board received his suggestions and will consider at a later date.

Teacher of the Year

In the absence of TOY Committee Chair Buck Buchanan, Betty Starzec presented his detailed plan for award policies and procedures to select future Teacher of the Year recipients. In the spirit of brevity, all objectives, selection criteria, nomination, and award presentations will not be stated in the minutes but are covered extensively in his report and are available in Google documents. The Board was asked to ratify these new procedures. A motion was made and seconded to do so, and this passed unanimously.

ACBL D16 Board of Directors Report

Paul Cuneo presented his report on the current state of affairs with the ACBL. Since all face to face games have been cancelled through the end of 2020, virtual play is currently the saving grace. As it continues to expand, the ACBL should finish the year at near break even financially. While the numbers are growing, we still have not reached

½ of the number of people playing in 2019. Mr. Cuneo encouraged all members of the board to reach out to anyone not yet playing online.

The ACBL has held two special meetings in May and June. One of these decisions was to cancel all sanctioned face to face events for the remainder of the year. Mr. Cuneo said that if any facility wants to collect a fee for a cancellation, league counsel can help. An ethical oversight committee has been created and staffed to deal with online cheating. Reporting issues and recording issues is essential. Also, the Board of Directors has approved a motion to create a guest membership. This will allow them to participate in limited games and will also aid teaching clubs. A taskforce is developing a strategy for online bridge in the future. Two members of D16 are serving on this committee – Nancy Strohmer and Donna Compton.

A motion to allow districts and units to run regional and sectional tournaments online has been defeated. It was determined that the ACBL and clubs need the income more. Technical and manual processes for running these operations are extensive and management does not want to incur the programming and training expenses needed. A large event with two-session and team events could overwhelm BBO's current capabilities. However, the Board supported management's plan for online events for the remainder of 2020.

Austin 2021 NABC

B.J. Sanders reported that Austin has started raising money and as a Unit has raised \$33,000. However, the largest fundraisers are District regionals and their own Unit sectionals. They expect to lose \$20,000 this year toward their goal of \$60,000. Ways to help were discussed. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Scorecard Update

The Executive Committee met prior to the meeting and asked the Directors to ratify two proposals regarding the Scorecard:

1. Waive or reimburse tournament ad expenses from the March/April Scorecard because of tournament cancellations. This affected 4 tournaments for a total of \$1,080.
2. Temporarily cease production of the Scorecard in both printed and digital form until such time as face-to-face events resume. This would also suspend fees from the units until production begins again.

Both motions were moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

Compendium of D16 Policies/Bylaw Changes

President Strohmer thanked Rebecca Brown and Tomi Storey again for compiling the Compendium of D16 Policies. This highlighted the need to review the bylaws and any discrepancies in some of our current policies. Ms. Brown is handling this review and will make recommendations at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mexico

By request of the Executive Committee, the Directors voted on two issues.

1. The Mexican Regional held in Puerto Vallarta currently splits profits with the District on a 75/25 split. The EC asked for an increase in profits to Unit 205 to 70/30.
2. Bidding boxes are shipped from Unit 173 to Unit 205 each year. The EC requested the Board approve a shared expense to purchase 40 boxes.

Motions were made and seconded on both matters and approved unanimously.

Google Docs

All shared documents will now be stored in Google Docs. President Strohmer has uploaded the job descriptions and they are available for viewing.

Action Item Review and Meeting Critique

President Strohmer thanked all attendees for their input and for handling our new meeting format so well. Our new meeting will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomi Storey
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16