

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

Jul 8, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in Houston live and on the Zoom meeting platform on July 8th, 2023. In attendance were:

Executive Officers

Betty Starzec	President
Ken Monzingo	1 st Vice President
Dave Ticen	2 nd Vice President
Tom Trudeau	Treasurer
Kristen Onsgard	Executive Secretary
Nancy Strohmer	Past President

Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)

Ed Rawlinson	Unit 172
Sue Gerard	Unit 173
Karen Nussbaum	Unit 174
Scott Nason	Unit 176
Steve Shirey	Unit 183
Dave Ticen	Unit 187
E. W. Sweeney	Unit 201
Neil Perlman	Unit 204
BJ Sanders	Unit 207
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

Nancy Strohmer	Charity
Rebecca Brown	Disciplinary
Lauri Laufman	I/N Newsletter and Membership
Scott Humphrey	Tournament Coordinator
Sandy Potts	Awards
Tomi Storey	STaC Coordinator

Standing Positions

Jack LaVigne	District Recorder
Scott Nason	GNT Coordinator
Evie Gilbert	Scorecard Editor
Betty Starzec	D16 Board of Governors
Nancy Strohmer	D16 Board of Governors
Stefanie Scott	NABC Correspondent
Patricia Herrera	Education and Spanish Lecture Coordinator
John Maryari	Webmaster
Linda Griffth	English Lecture Series Coor.

Guests Jerry Harrinton

CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM

President Starzec welcomed everyone. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM CST and a quorum was confirmed. Nicky Benninger is the new unit 205 rep.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/CONSENT AGENDAS and Financial Report

The board received both, with no questions and were approved.

ACBL Board of Directors' Report

Paul Cuneo submitted the report summarizing the following:

1. Paul congratulated Bronia Jenkins as the new Exec Dir and will remain available to assist in the transition.
2. He is optimistic about both the ACBL and NABC budgets.
3. Paul believes there should be an advocate for beginning players to explain charge cases and possible defense strategies. Betty asked Rebecca to look into this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards

Jacoby Award will be announced at the Labor Day Regional. Betty made a motion that a couple nominated be considered as one nomination. No vote taken.

Charity

Nancy Stohmer submitted the following:

Charity games held in March included March 27, 29, 30 and 31. We had **400 tables** with **40 Clubs** participating. In comparison, the four March games in 2022 had 155 tables with 14 Clubs participating. This year's participation was fantastic!

Lecture Serices

Nancy thanked Linda and James for taking over the English series. Patricia has agreed to continue to Spanish series. Tom T has asked the coordinators to send him a list of speakers and addresses so that he can issue payments.

GNT Report

Plan is to run GNT Championship and B in Houston on April 6th and 7th. A and C will be in Dallas April 19th and 20th. Scott proposed that the GNT chair be reimbursed for up to three hotel nights (max \$450) depending on the length of the event when the GNT is in a location different than home. Moved, seconded and passed.

NABC Correspondent

Because article has increased to include more success stories, it will be split between two Scorecard issues in the future.

NAP

No unit level qualifier. Austin is going to de-couple the NAP and it's sectional due to space constraints.

Tournament coordinator

Two Royal STaCs planned for 2023. Per vote from Sept 2022 meeting, Tomi sent notices to all clubs informing them that any clubs not paid up will not be eligible for STaC games. Approximately 50% of the clubs do not pay. Tomi has made it clear to the non-paying clubs that with the Oct event, there will be no forgiveness given for unpaid StaC fees. Karen noted that the Unit Reps should be responsible for assisting in the collection of club fees.

Scott H discussed the new ACBL tournament procedures for downgraded sectionals. Will require further director certification beyond club level. Unit reps should contact Scott for clarification. Paul objected to the term downgraded and stated the term should be local sections and will contact Scott management team about terminology.

Approved maintenance for dealing machine for \$700 (includes shipping).

I/N newsletter

Asking that Units contribute stories for this newsletter – about students, from teachers about declarer play, defense, etc. or from directors about rules.

Membership

Betty and Lauri met with Unit coordinators to request ideas for increasing and retaining membership.

Scorecard

Difficulty with new format. Only 42% opened the email and 25% of those opened a link. Meaning that only 13% are reading any of the material. Average read time was 4 min and 24 seconds with most active units being San Antonio and Wichita Falls.

Webmaster

Please provide exact wording required. Copy current president. John M will not edit.

New BUSINESS

Regional table fees

Motion approved to reimburse or forgive (depending upon timing) one period of table fees to the units in consideration of financial difficulties after COVID.

Robly

Evie is now in charge of Robly. Karen inquired as to why each tournament can only issue one announcement. Units may send as many notices as it likes, however, the District will only send one. Lubbock, San Angelo, Midland, and Abilene would like the Scorecards by mail.

Best Practices

Houston requested and was approved for a workshop in 2024

Action Item Review and Meeting Critique

The next meeting will be held at 8:30 AM on Sept 2nd, 2023 at Dallas Regional IN PERSON and on Zoom. Please mark your calendars.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 9:32 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Onsgard
Executive Secretary, ACBL District 16