

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

Sept 2, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in Dallas live and on the Zoom meeting platform on Sept 2nd 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
Leane Thornberry	Unit 197 (proxy for Helen Lauderdale)
E. W. Sweeney	Unit 201
Neil Perlman	Unit 204
BJ Sanders	Unit 207

Non-Voting Board Members

Representing District 16 on ACBL Board of Directors

Paul Cuneo, Director

Committee Chairs

Nancy Strohmer	Charity
Rebecca Brown	Disciplinary
Scott Humphrey	Tournament Coordinator
Sandy Potts	Awards
Tomi Storey	STaC Coordinator

Standing Positions

Jack LaVigne	District Recorder
Scott Nason	GNT Coordinator
Larry Davis	NAP Coordinator
Evvie Gilbert	Scorecard Editor
Betty Starzec	D16 Board of Governors

Nancy Strohmer

D16 Board of Governors

Guests

Bronia Jenkins

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/CONSENT AGENDAS and Financial Report

The board received both, with no questions and were approved. Tom also reported that rebates given for District regional fees and NABC surcharges. Betty noted that District 16 grassroots fund was the third largest in the ACBL.

ACBL Board of Directors' Report

1. Social bridge initiative – Bridge for Friends with focus on-line first and then face to face. Encourage players at country clubs, sports clubs, etc. to become ACBL players.
2. Complaints from club managers regarding StaC events. Need communication plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards

Sandy announced that Jacoby would be awarded today and asked the board to attend.

Charity

Nancy Stohmer submitted the following:

District 16 scheduled a series of charity games earlier this year. We extend our appreciation to each and every club that lent their support to make these charity games a success. When you have the opportunity, please thank the following clubs for their participation in the District 16 charity games. With a collective effort that spanned these clubs, as reported at the last meeting, there were 400 tables in total. The funds collected from these charity games have been channeled towards local charities, grassroots initiatives, and the ACBL Charity Foundation

- Apple (Houston)
- Apple II (Houston)
- Arlington DBC
- Beaumont Bridge Studio
- Bordello Bridge (San Miguel de Allende, Mexico)
- Bridge Academy of West Houston
- Bridge Center of Austin
- Bridge Club of Houston
- Clear Lake Bridge Club
- Colonial DBC (Fort Worth)
- Denton Bridge Studio
- Fort Phantom (Abilene)
- Friday DBC (Fort Worth)
- Friendly Bridge Club (Dallas/Plano)

- HI Bridge (Kyle/San Marcos)
- Hill Country (New Braunfels)
- Kingwood Duplicate Bridge Club
- Lake Conroe Duplicate Bridge Club
- Lone Star Bridge Club (Conroe)
- Longview Duplicate Club
- MAC Bridge (Mansfield)
- Odessa Duplicate Club
- Orange Comm Bridge League
- Pebble Creek Duplicate Bridge Club (College Station)
- Permian Bridge (Midland)
- Robson Ranch Denton BC
- Rose City Duplicate Bridge Club (Tyler)
- Sheila Bell DBC (Texarkana)
- Star Duplicate Bridge Club (College Station)
- Steve's Tuesday Afternoon Bridge (Fort Worth)
- The Bridge Studio of SMA (San Miguel de Allende, Mexico)
- Van Zandt County DBC (Canton).

Moved that 2024 charity games be held March 11th and 14th (grassroots) 12th and 15th (local charity). Seconded and approved.

Disciplinary

Paul Cuneo suggested that D16 consider having advocates available to assist District members who are charged with violations of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. These violations fall broadly into two categories: ethical (i.e., cheating) both online and F2F; and conduct. Rebecca's report included various questions. Betty suggested that Rebecca chair a committee to discuss the scope of advocacy and how to manage the liability that could occur for both advocates and District 16.

Education

Houston would like a Best Practices seminar in 2024. The District has been paying the \$1700 (at most twice each year) up front charge with \$50 charged to attendees. Betty made a motion to increase the ACBL fee to \$2500 but requiring a minimum of 8 attendees at each session. Motion made, seconded and approved.

GNT Report

Plan is to run GNT Championship and B in Houston on April 6th and 7th. A and C will be in Dallas at the Memorial Day Sectional.

NABC Correspondent

Stefanie will continue to take photographs. Scott Nason will write the articles.

NAP

Austin is still considering de-coupling the NAP and its sectional due to space constraints. Will know more in January.

Policies and Procedure

Rachel is updating the manual. Please send any changes to her.

Tournament coordinator

Tomi reported some issues with the new director but that in future she would follow-up on process.

Unit reps to discuss collection of overdue fees with clubs. 2024 first royal StaC scheduled for March.

Scott confirmed that the unit coordinator must request a down-graded sectionals. If region wants an on-line component to its regional: 1) put on schedule immediately because of staffing difference; 2) open only to members of the district; 3) on-line director reports results to tournament DiC.

I/N report

Sam asked for volunteers submit interviews about new players for the I/N newsletter. Unit reps please relay this request to your clubs.

Membership

Website has been updated with current unit data and district data going back to 1991.

Scorecard

Continuing low reading statistics. Ken to institute style sheet.

Robly

Re-subscribed. Evvie suggested cleaning contacts that "don't open" mailings from District because we have only 225 more spaces until reaching subscription limit. No deletions to be made for now.

TOY

Announcements placed in Scorecard requesting nominations. Robly mailing coming shortly. Updated procedures for committee. Announcement of winner will be held between sessions in Houston.

Webmaster

Website needs an overhaul due to obsolete coding.

New BUSINESS

ACBL Postcards

Betty sent to unit presidents a list of lapsed members, granting \$20 in free plays to the clubs if they re-join. Annotated lists should be returned to Stephanie at ACBL. Sherry at ACBL will assist individual members who need help with process.

Meeting Equipment

With the new projector screen at the meeting the board would like a similar screen purchase for future meetings and gave a budget of \$100.

Action Item Review and Meeting Critique

Betty underscored the need for a new treasurer, with Tom's resignation effective 12/31/2023. She also thanked him for his service. The next meeting will be held at 8:30 AM on Jan 27th, 2024 at Houston 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