

SAN ANTONIO BRIDGE LEAGUE UNIT 172

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

October 21, 2024

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm by Nancy Tom. **Present:** Nancy Tom, Roxana Tom, Sharon Evans, Karen Fillis, Ed Rawlinson, David Mitchell, Ellen Hessel, Rebecca Evans, Susan Hernandez and Jamie Gardner. **Absent:** Jo Neesvig. **Guests:** Laurie Levin, Steve Simpson, Ira Hessel, Dave Swarhout, Donna Swarhout and Mary Massey.

Nancy welcomed our new member, Jamie Gardner, and thanked our outgoing member, Everette Lewis, for his service to the Unit. Mary Massey and David Mitchell invited the board and their spouses or significant others to a reception at Mary's house on Wednesday afternoon, 23724 Up Mountain Road. Mary left the meeting after the invitation was extended.

Minutes: Roxie Tom moved to approve the minutes from the monthly meeting on September 9, 2024, Rebecca Evans seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Evans prepared and presented the Treasurer's Report for September. Total Assets are approximately \$78,000. We made about \$1000 on the October Sectional with 161 tables in play. Not as good a turnout as New Braunfels, but better than 2023. New Braunfels profit was over \$2000 with 216 tables because all of the hospitality was donated except the Sunday Swiss lunch.

Chris Cloyd, Diane Olson's daughter, sent a thank you note for allowing her to sell merchandise for Hope Ministry at the October Sectional. She had almost \$1800 in sales and was thankful for the generosity of the players and their remembrances of her mother.

Nancy Tom acknowledged our visitors and asked if they would like to address the board.

Donna Swarhout expressed concern about player attrition and asked the board to consider more ways to promote bridge in San Antonio maybe through a newsletter offering lessons and upcoming games, contacting new members by phone and directing them to a club, seeking possible venues for weekend games or having games more days out of the week, also more education (like review of the hands by an expert after a game and supervised play for novices). A Promotion Committee was formed consisting of David Mitchell, Rebecca Evans, Donna Swarhout, Ellen Hessel, and Laurie Levin.

Ira Hessel presented facts on attrition. ACBL has lost half of its membership from pre-covid days. Many clubs closed and the number of Regionals and Sectionals has dropped significantly because Units can't afford the cost of venues with lower attendance. There are also more points offered in some club games in major cities than sectionals in smaller cities.

Election of Officers:

President – Nancy Tom

Vice President – Roxana Tom

Treasurer – Sharon Evans

Secretary – Karen Fillis

Committee Reports: New Committee chairs to be elected at the November Board Meeting.

Membership: 1 new member, 2 transfers in and 0 transfer out. Total membership 448.

Education: Laurie will be starting classes at the Jewish Community Center in November. Roxie and Rosemary are looking to schedule Learn Bridge in a Day, hopefully in November or December. Steve offers supervised play in his 299 games.

Mentor/Mentee: Currently there are 12 Mentor/Mentee pairs and 12 Tiered-mentoring pairs. Susan will be contacting Mentors and Mentees to play in the November ProAm.

Intermediate/Newcomer: There was a good turnout for the 499er game on Thursday at the sectional, 4 tables in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. Kevin misunderstood and gave out 12 free plays to 499ers.

Partnership: Jo matched up a lot of players in the October sectional.

Unit Games:

November 16: Mentor/Mentee and Pro/Am, single session (Ed, Jamie and Jo). Karen has scheduled delivery of trailer with Freddie at 10:30 am on the 16th. Steve Simpson is updating the unit computer for the BridgeMates and will have it ready before the tournament. Larry Levin will be directing. Nancy will prepare sign-up lists for Fiesta, New Braunfels and Kerrville clubs. There will be a sign-up for snacks at Fiesta.

December 14: Holiday Party (Karen, Ed and Rebecca). The Unit will provide the meat and there will be signup lists at local clubs for side dishes and desserts.

December 4: Fiesta Bridge Club is having a holiday party.

December 10: New Braunfels is having a 2-session holiday party.

Tournaments:

Regional 2025: Flyer has been sent to ACBL for posting. Contact Nancy if there are any changes.

Diane Olson Election Sectional: Thanks to all who helped with the tournament, 161 tables and a small profit. Some Zero Tolerance was reported. It is the players' responsibility to call the director for matters of Zero Tolerance. Larry Levin did a great job as speaker with about 15 people in attendance.

Ed Rawlinson Winter Sectional: Tournament will be held at the Jewish Community Center from January 16-19, 2025. Board approved a Kosher lunch for the Sunday Swiss of Vegetable Lasagna, salad, iced tea and a cookie for \$13 per person. Laurie is coordinating the lunch. Sharon checked with the JCC, and we will have the venue until 6:30 on Friday evening. Ira Hessel will be the speaker on Saturday.

2025-2027 Tournaments: St. Thomas has approved a 25% deposit for the Sectional tournaments in 2025. Sharon has made the deposits and signed the contracts. We will make the deposits for the Unit games in 2025. Ed will prepare a schedule of proposed dates for Unit games.

Scorecard: Ellen is concerned that players don't read the online version of the Scorecard. Anyone wanting to submit information for the Scorecards, please contact Ellen.

Winning Finesse: Karen suggested considering email the Winning Finesse. There was significant opposition so Sharon will pay for the bulk postage for another year.

President's Online Meeting: 5/5/5 report was attached to the Agenda, as well as a summary of the President's meeting.

Old Business:

Awards: Nancy, Jo and Karen will help with write-ups for awards, which must be submitted soon.

District 16 Board meeting: There was more discussion about the NAPS qualifier in January 2025 not being part of a Sectional. Roxie or Ellen will bring up the matter at the District Board meeting in February.

New Business: None

Next meeting: Monday November 11 at 2:30 at Agudas Achim.

Sharon moved to adjourn the meeting, Karen seconded, and meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Fillis, Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

Nancy, Jo and Karen — write-up for District Star and Goodwill awards

Promotion Committee — David, Rebecca, Ellen, Donna, Laurie — schedule meeting

Roxie and Rosemary — schedule Learn Bridge in a Day