

**Dallas Bridge Association Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting 02/07/24**

Attendees: Milt Neher, Bill Driscoll, Bob Holliday, Connie Scott, Cheryl Rider Paul Taylor, Truett Cates and Bill Higgins were present. Guest attendees Roz Smith and Scott Nason also addressed the Board. The February meeting was held at King of Glory Church.

The January minutes were approved.

Ed Yetter provided the financial reports, which were approved.

As of January 31, 2024 the unit has total cash assets of \$87,988.07. There is \$34,720.71 in the checking account and \$53,267.36 in the Fidelity investment account. The venue cost of \$4,000 for the February tournament has already been paid.

Bill Driscoll and Bob Holliday presented the member communications report for January via email.

Date	Reads	Percent Read	Clicks on Links	Unsubs	Spam	Bounces	Email Theme
01/09/24	689	59.40%	35	1	0	0	Unit Board Election Online Ballot Pro-Am/8-is-Enough
01/17/24	748	64.40%	30	0	1	0	Dallas Winter Sectional
01/25/24	673	58.10%	31	0	0	1	Upcoming Events Winter Sectional and Unit Game
02/01/24	652	57.20%	65	0	0	0	February Newsletter

Upcoming emails will focus on the Dallas Winter Sectional, the Dallas Spring Sectional and the District 16 Royal STAC week – March 25-31. The number of recipients on the mailing list is now 1140.

Bill Higgins presented the membership report for September

The unit had 3 new members in January. Three members were reinstated. Two members transferred in, 3 members were moved to unpaid status and 19 members became inactive. Because of the high number of inactive members, total membership has dropped to 1341. This is lower than any month in 2023 and it continues a trend of a growing number members becoming inactive each month. Bill Higgins will report to the board on the trend and suggest that board members check the list for familiar names and encourage them to renew their membership.

Cheryl Rider led a discussion of Equipment Issues

Cheryl has received a request from the Fort Worth unit to borrow our bidding boxes for their Regional in May. She suggested the board approve the requirement of a \$1,000 deposit and a signed agreement before lending out our equipment. The board agreed. Cheryl will update the loan agreement and ensure the deposit is collected before loaning our equipment.

Connie Scott led a discussion about choosing Stuart Nelan's replacement on the unit board.

The Board chose to ask Mary Chaffin, who ran for the Board in January, to see if she would be interested in completing Stu's term. Connie Scott will reach out to her and find out her decision. If she agrees to serve, it would only be for the final year of Stu's term.

The Board elected Paul Taylor to be the new secretary and Connie Scott agreed to serve as charity chair.

Milt Neher presented a Unit Game and Pro/Am report

The first unit game of 2024 will be held on March 10, 2024 at Congregation Shearith Israel. King of Glory Church has advised that they are not interested in hosting any unit games so all the games will be held at Congregation Shearith Israel. The following dates are confirmed: March 10, June 16, July 14 and August 4.

The Board discussed upcoming tournaments.

February Winter Sectional

The February Winter Sectional will be held February 21-24, with set-up on February 20. Everything is in place for this tournament. The District STAR and Goodwill Awards will be presented on Saturday along with the annual unit membership meeting.

Future 2024 Tournaments

There are several volunteer positions for the remaining 2024 tournaments that are not filled.

- **April Sectional:** Need Partnership Chair. Connie will reach out to Debor Casen to see if she would be willing to take on this responsibility
- **May Sectional:** Need both a Tournament Chair and a Partnership Chair. Bill Higgins agreed to chair the tournament and Truett Cates agreed to be the partnership chair.
- **Labor Day Regional:** Needs a Partnership Chair, as Bob Holliday may be out of town.
- **Dallas Fall Sectional/I/N Regional:** Needs tournament chairs for both events and a partnership chair. Jim and Cheryl Rider agreed to chair the sectional and I/N Regional. Bill Driscoll agreed to be the partnership chair.

The Board discussed whether to move the May Memorial Day tournament from the Holiday Inn in Richardson to the Marriot Courtyard in Allen because of problems encountered at the Holiday Party. The Board decided to leave the event at the Holiday Inn for 2024 and give them an opportunity to address the problems. Ed Yetter will notify our contact at the Marriot Courtyard of the decision and thank them for their generous proposal.

Roz Smith joined the meeting to discuss Sectional hospitality.

Roz reported that she and Mary Lynn Genovasi are happy to continue providing the snacks for the sectional tournaments as long as the Board continues to pay for a kitchen helper. She reported that some other unit members have volunteered to prepare and bring snacks also, which is much appreciated. It would be helpful if the Board could stay and help with clean-up at the end of the tournament.

The Board provided direction to not put out any heavy snacks right before lunchtime. Participants are expected to provide their own lunch or purchase lunch at the small cafe down the hall. So, put out

only breakfast snacks, mid-morning snacks and snacks in the afternoon after lunch.

Roz provided a shopping list of needed paper goods, including napkins, cups, small plates and small bowls. We also need to purchase disposable table cloths to go on the hospitality tables. Cheryl Rider will coordinate purchasing these supplies.

Scott Nason joined the meeting to provide a District 16 news update.

The new District 16 president for 2024 is Jack Lavigne. The ACBL has instituted a new anti-cheating program for online games. It is called Edgar. It automatically analyzes play looking for suspicious plays. All discipline issues are now handled at the national level.

Other News:

- Paul Cuneo has retired from the ACBL Board of Directors
- The District 16 financials are in good shape.
- Since he is no longer on the unit board, Scott offered to resign as Unit 176 representative to the District 16 board but the Board voted unanimously to have him remain our District 16 representative.
- Unit 176 will host the Spring Nationals in 2027 at the Sheraton Hotel downtown.

Scott Nason also provided an update on the GNT District Finals.

Registrations are thus far very light. Some flights may be completed in one day. To incentivize more members to participate in the GNT District Finals, the Board approved a small stipend. Local players participating in flight A or flight C in Dallas in May will receive a \$20 stipend. Local players traveling to Houston for Flight B or the Championship Flight in April will receive a \$50 stipend.

Other Business

- The Board considered a request from Randy Eads to have a free room for the photographer for the February sectional. The Board voted not to offer a free room but to offer free plays throughout the tournament, as we have done in the past. Ed Yetter will advise Randy of the decision and see if he still wants to be our photographer.
- The board received a nice thank you note from Sue Greims for her gift card.

The March meeting will be Tuesday, March 12 at Jim Harps Rockwall game. Game time is 10:30 AM with the board meeting to follow. The address is: Rockwall Community Center, 108 E. Washington St. Rockwall, TX 75087