

**Dallas Bridge Association Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting 03/12/24**

Attendees: Milt Neher, Bill Driscoll, Connie Scott, Paul Taylor, Truett Cates and Mary Chaffin were present. Bob Holliday, Bill Higgins and Cheryl Rider were absent. The February meeting was held at the Rockwall Community Center.

The February minutes were approved.

Ed Yetter provided the financial reports, which were approved.

As of January 31, 2024 the unit has total cash assets of \$92, 657.45. There is \$39,113.25 in the checking account and \$53,544.20 in the Fidelity investment account. The unit is tracking right on budget through February.

The proceeds from the February tournament were booked on February 29. The unit received an overpayment reimbursement from the Renaissance of \$482.22.

The STAC fees from all non-Unit 176 clubs who participated in the Metroplex STAC have been collected.

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

Date	Reads	Percent Read	Clicks on Links	Unsubs	Spam	Bounces	Email Theme
02/01/24	670	58.80%	78	0	0	0	February Newsletter
02/08/24	732	64.20%	43	0	1	0	Winter Sectional and March Unit Game
02/15/24	691	60.70%	57	0	0	0	Winter Sectional and March Unit Game
03/01/24	670	58.80%	78	0	0	0	March Newsletter

Upcoming emails will focus on the District 16 STAC, March 25-March 31, the Dallas Spring Sectional, April 17-20, the GNT District Finals and the Memorial Day Sectional, May 22-26.

Bill Higgins presented the membership report via email.

The unit had 5 new members in February. Six members were reinstated. Three members transferred in, 1 member were moved to unpaid status and 12 members became inactive. The unit board will develop an outreach to encourage inactive members to pay their membership fees with the ACBL.

Connie Scott led a discussion of the February Winter Sectional.

There were no problems or issues with the tournament. The hospitality was outstanding, as always. The church continues to be a great venue for our events.

The board voted to raise the per-session compensation for caddies from \$40 to \$50 with an additional \$20 paid on the last day for clean-up and tear-down support.

The Board discussed the 2024 April and Memorial Day tournaments.

April Spring Sectional

The April Spring Sectional will be held April 17-20, with set-up on Tuesday, April 16. Milt Neher is the tournament chair and Debor Cassen has agreed to be the Partnership Chair. Ed Yetter will update the flyer and send to the ACBL. The tournament will follow the same schedule as the Winter Sectional.

The Mini McKinney and Ace of Clubs awards for 2023 will be presented on Saturday of the Spring Sectional between sessions. To encourage attendance for the presentation, the Board voted to provide box lunches.

Milt will contact Randy Eads for photographer and Gerrie Owen for caddies.

Memorial Day Sectional

The Memorial Day sectional will be held May 22-26 at the Holiday Inn Dallas-Richardson. The District GNT finals for Flights A and C will take place concurrently with the Memorial Day Sectional on Saturday and, if needed, on Sunday. Bill Higgins is the Tournament Chair and Truett Cates is the Partnership Chair.

The Board discussed whether or not to have box lunches on Sunday but did not make a decision. The issue will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Ed Yetter led a discussion about the 2024 Labor Day Regional.

Ed and Tomi are planning a single session Board-a-Match event one evening during the tournament. The vibe for the event will be casual and fun.

The Board voted not to hold an online game as part of this year's Regional. There are concerns about competing with the clubs or forcing them to close during the event. The Board will research this option further and reconsider it for 2025.

Ed Yetter announced that the contract with the Marriott Courtyard – Allen for the 2025 Regional has been signed. The unit does have a contract with the Renaissance for 2025 but their 2024 client wants to return, so our event will once again be held at the Marriott Courtyard – Allen.

Milt Neher presented a read-out of the Tournament Committee meeting held on March 6.

The Tournament Committee met on March 6 and offers the following proposals for approval by the board:

2025 Tournament Dates and Venues:

- Winter Sectional – February 12-February 15 at Lovers Lane UMC
- Spring Sectional – April 2-April 5 at Lovers Lane UMC
- Memorial Day Sectional – May 22 – May 26 at the Holiday Inn Dallas-Richardson
- Labor Day Regional – August 28 – September 2 at the Marriot Courtyard – Allen
- Fall Sectional – November 5 – November 8 at Lovers Lane Church.

Ed Yetter will reach out to the venues and reserve the dates and then request the sanctions from the ACBL.

The limited masterpoint pair game will change from 749er to 499er at all Sectional tournaments going forward, beginning with the Memorial Day Sectional. The Regional limited masterpoint pair game is 299er because of the Gold Rush Pairs.

The Board approved the Tournament Committee's recommendations.

Milt Neher presented a Unit Game report.

The March unit game had 20 tables in the Open and 6 tables in the 749er game.

The next unit game will be held on June 16, 2024 at Congregation Shearith Israel. The following future dates are confirmed: July 14 and August 4.

Truett Cates presented an Intermediate/Newcomer report.

Truett has been researching a program developed by the Houston unit called Future Life Masters. This program uses a mentor/mentee model to augment lessons at the clubs. Under this program participants are assigned mentors to play with at local clubs and in an online game. The mentee is responsible for paying all the entry fees.

The Houston unit advised that we could bring our mentor/mentees to the online game immediately. He will find out more details about the game and see if this is something that could be implemented right away. He will also reach out to the teachers who provide lessons to explain the program and see how it fits with their current offerings and report back at the April board meeting.

Other Business

- The hospitality team of Roz Smith and Mary Lynn Genovesi requests that the unit purchase another coffee pot for hot water for tea. The board approved the expense. Cheryl Rider will coordinate with Chuck Eastin to purchase the coffee pot.

The April meeting date and location are TBD.