

**Dallas Bridge Association Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting 04/10/24**

Attendees: Milt Neher, Bill Higgins, Connie Scott, Cheryl Rider, Truett Cates and Mary Chaffin were present. Bob Holliday, Bill Driscoll and Paul Taylor were absent. The April meeting was held at King of Glory Lutheran Church

The March minutes were approved.

Ed Yetter provided the financial reports, which were approved.

As of March 31, 2024 the unit has total cash assets of \$90,587.98. There is \$36,613.17 in the checking account and \$53,965.81 in the Fidelity investment account. The unit is currently missing the 2024 budget by \$431.28. However, this includes a deposit payment for the venue of the 2025 Regional of \$1,000 and a payment of \$528 for duplication of boards for the 2023 Regional to replace a lost check.

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
03/01/24	709	61.80%	142	1	0	1	March Newsletter
03/05/24	697	60.80%	51	1	1	1	Upcoming Events and March Unit Game
03/17/24	706	61.60%	39	0	0	1	Winter Sectional and March Unit Game
03/23/24	699	61.00%	8	0	0	0	Special Easter Sunday STAC Game
04/02/24	654	56.90%	75	0	0	1	April Newsletter

Upcoming emails will focus on 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 3 new members in March. One member was reinstated. One member transferred in, 2 member were moved to unpaid status and 6 members became inactive. Total unit membership is now 1332. Bill provided historical membership numbers back to December 2022 which show that over those 16 months the unit has lost 44 members (3.19%) and has lost nearly 18% since prior to the COVID closures. The biggest impact comes from members who move to inactive status.

The ACBL has introduced a recruitment and retention program called "Return to the Fold." Unit quarterly compensation from the ACBL will now be tied to the implementation of this program. The goal of the program is to reach out to lapsed members to encourage them to renew their membership, and to recruit new members. There is an online tool and several other resources available on the ACBL website to assist with implementation. There is also a training program. Bill will lead the effort to learn about the program and put together a team of volunteers to help with

implementation. Mary Chaffin will assist Bill in this effort and they will report to the board periodically. Bill will also make an announcement at the upcoming Spring Sectional.

Cheryl Rider led a discussion of the recent theft of the large trailer and next steps.

Cheryl put together an inventory of the contents of the trailer and approximate replacement costs. The total for all items comes to \$11,775. The immediate focus is on acquiring inventory for the Spring Sectional that begins on April 17. Ed Yetter reports that there are 27 tables in the small trailer. Cheryl will purchase another 37 and will order bidding boxes through Amazon. Gerrie Owen is donating about 100 bidding boxes she no longer needs. Cheryl will also order water jugs, coolers, stanchions and coffee pots. No boards were lost, as these are stored in the inside storage.

A club in Rhode Island is willing to give us 100 bidding boxes if we pay the shipping. The board authorized Cheryl to move forward with that purchase and to obtain as many as they have available.

Cheryl found a club in New Mexico that is willing to sell us 20 sets of boards, with cases and cards, for \$10 per set. This is significantly cheaper than you could buy them. Even though we did not lose any boards, Cheryl recommends the board purchase them. She and Jim are willing to drive to New Mexico and pick them up. The board tabled this issue for now until the situation with the trailer is resolved.

The cost to replace the trailer will be significant. A member of the unit is considering selling their 12-foot trailer for \$2,000. This would be a great price but the police are trying to recover our trailer so before purchasing another one we will wait and see if they are successful or not. In the meantime the small trailer can be utilized for the Sectional tournaments.

Milt Neher led a discussion of the upcoming Spring Sectional.

The board discussed whether to provide limited, pre-packaged hospitality to save some money and not have to replace all our paper supplies right now. Milt will check with Roz Smith and Mary Lynn Genovase and see what they want to do.

The 2023 Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney winners will be announced between sessions on Saturday. To make it easier for players to stay for the presentation, a box lunch will be provided.

Connie Scott has notified all the winners and has emailed the on-line winners.

Randy Eads is not available to be our photographer. Bob Holliday volunteered to be the photographer for the Spring Sectional.

The Board discussed the 2024 Memorial Day Sectional, May 22-26.

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.

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

Ed will approach Debor Cassen about being the Partnership Chair. The flyer has not been sent yet pending approval from the venue on the evening Board-A-Match event. Since they have not responded, the event will be scheduled and the flyer will be sent to the ACBL.

The Board discussed 2025 Tournament Dates.

Proposed dates have changed from the original recommendations due to venue availability. The church has advised that they cannot accommodate our Spring Sectional next year. The Winter Sectional will be held January 29-February 1 and the Fall Sectional will be held October 29-November 1. The Holiday Inn is holding April 2-5, 2025 until after the Memorial Day Sectional.

Milt Neher presented a Unit Game report.

The next unit game will be held on June 16, 2024 at Congregation Shearith Israel and then again on July 14 and August 4. .

Milt has approval from King of Glory to host unit games on September 15, October 6 and November 17. These games will be run by either Valley View Bridge Club or Friendly Bridge Club. The Unit will have no financial interest.

Truett Cates presented an Intermediate/Newcomer report.

Truett has been researching a program developed by the Houston unit called Future Life Masters.

The Houston unit advised that we could bring our mentor/mentees to their online game immediately. Truett reports that this 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 May board meeting.

The May meeting will be held at King of Glory Lutheran Church on Saturday, 5-11 at 11:00, prior to the Friendly game at 1:00.