

**Dallas Bridge Association Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting 11/14/24**

Attendees: Connie Scott, Bill Driscoll, Bill Higgins, Milt Neher, Cheryl Rider, Paul Taylor and Truett Cates were present. Mary Chaffin and Bob Holliday were absent. The November meeting was held at the King of Glory Church prior to Valley View's Wednesday game.

The October minutes were approved.

Ed Yetter provided the financial reports, which were approved.

As of October 31, 2024 the unit has total cash assets of \$73,101.36. There is 27,523.37 in the checking account and \$45,577.99 in the Fidelity investment account.

As of October 31 the unit is short of the 2024 budget by \$28,148.90. Ed Yetter presented a 2025 budget for approval. This budget is frugal and adjusts income expectations to be in line with 2024 results and also removes all but the most certain expenses. The result would be a net loss of \$3,105. Based on the positive results from the November Sectional / I/N Regional, there is a realistic possibility the final net income result for 2025 could be positive.

Bill Driscoll presented the member communications report for October via email.

There were emails sent out on 11/2 (November newsletter) and other topics on 10/13, 10/18, 10/24,, 10/30, 11/5 and 11/12. Read rates were between 55% and 56% except the November Newsletter, which was 60%.

Future email notifications will focus on the results from the November Sectional-I/N Regional, the STAC week 12-2 through 12-8, the 2025 tournament schedule, new life masters and upcoming bridge opportunities at the clubs.

Bill Higgins presented the October Membership Report.

Data for membership is somewhat limited this month because the usual reports were not received from the ACBL. Some information is available from other reports. There were 7 new members, 5 reinstated members, six members transferred in. According to the November 6 unit roster, there are 1330 members currently in the unit. This is inconsistent with the last few membership reports which showed a steady decline to under 1310. Hopefully, the December report will be restored to the original format. Our 5-5-5 program results for the first 2nd and 3rd quarters were positive.

Cheryl Rider presented an Equipment Report.

The current equipment manager has expressed concerns about his physical ability to handle the job. Cheryl shares these concerns and suggests that the unit begin a search for a new equipment manager. The Board agrees with this assessment of the situation. She will let the current equipment manager know about this decision.

Ed Yetter led a discussion of the Labor Day Regional

Ed and Tomi Storey met with the team at the Courtyard on 11/13 to review the 2024 Regional. Ed shared that they addressed the concerns about food quality, room cleaning & towel service and operational issues such as keeping the bathrooms clean and stocked. The Courtyard team has a plan

to improve in all these areas in 2025. Ed also reported that they discussed certain changes to the 2025 contract which would be beneficial to the Unit. These changes remain under discussion.

The board wants to find a different venue for 2026. The board appointed Cheryl Rider and Bill Higgins to lead the search for a new venue. In addition, Ed Yetter is working with the Renaissance to see what dates they may have available in 2026 and going forward. It might be better to move the date than to find a new venue.

Milt Neher presented a Unit Game report.

The next unit game is November 17 at King of Glory Church. It will be sponsored by Friendly Bridge Club. The December unit game will be held on December 8 at King of Glory Church. It will be the final day of the 2024 Metroplex STAC. This game would normally be the Unit Holiday Party but this year it will be sponsored by Friendly Bridge Club and will be their club Holiday Party. The unit will donate items for a raffle, including 2 gift certificates from the Renaissance Hotel and 10 unit free play cards. The start time for both games is 12:30 PM.

The dates for all 2025 unit games are set. They will all be held at King of Glory Church and will be run by either Friendly Bridge Club or Valley View Bridge Club. The two clubs will decide which club is going to host which game and report to Milt.

Cheryl Rider and Bill Driscoll led a discussion of the Fall Sectional - I/N Regional

The general impression of the tournament was positive. But there were a few complaints:

- Someone playing in the I/N Regional complained that the flyer did not make it clear that only 1/3 of the points for the Gold Rush Pairs winner would actually be gold points.
- Some members suggested we change the days from Wednesday thru Saturday to Thursday thru Sunday, to give working members another opportunity to play. This would not be possible as long as our events are held at a church.
- Members of Unit 183 (Fort Worth/Arlington) have requested that the time be changed from 10:00 and 2:30 to 11:00 and 3:30 to facilitate an easier commute.
- The "Bracket 1 Problem" was again an issue. While there is no easy solution to this problem, offering a variety of team formats may help provide options for everybody.

There were absolutely no complaints about the increase in the entry fee or the level of hospitality.

The board discussed 2025 tournaments.

Based on feedback from the Fall Sectional and I/N Regional, the Board made significant changes to the January 2025 Winter Sectional.

- The start times will be 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM to encourage attendance from Unit 183.
- The Thursday and Saturday team games will be an Open Swiss where everybody plays in the same event in a traditional Swiss Team game. On Wednesday and Friday the team game will be a bracketed team event. Pairs will be available every day.

The recent cost-reduction efforts and the increase in entry fees should make the 2025 tournaments more financially viable.

Truett Cates presented an Intermediate/Newcomer Report

Truett is ready to roll out a unit-wide mentor program. The program will pair mentors (750 MPs or

more) with Mentees (less than 750 Mps.) The rollout will consist of several steps:

- Announcement and communications of the program to members and club owners will explain the rules and regulations.
- Sign-ups for both mentors and mentees will use an online form that will be distributed via email and placed on the website.
- The match-making effort will be handled by a committee.
- Implementation will allow mentor-mentee pairs to play in club games of their choosing and in the Houston unit Monday evening online game.

This program could offer an opportunity to reach players in non-sanctioned games who are interested in improving to play in sanctioned games.

The goal is to launch the program in the first quarter of 2025.

New Business

The Board selected Goodwill Committee and Texas Star recipients for 2025.

There will be no December meeting. The January meeting will be the annual meeting with both retiring and new board members. It will be held Wednesday, January 15 at the home of Mary Chaffin, 5765 Prestwick Ln, Dallas, TX 75252 at 12:30 PM.