

**American Contract Bridge League District 16
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held February 6, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Marriott Houston Westchase Hotel in Houston,, Texas at 10 a.m. on February 6, 2010.

Board members present (Units represented in parentheses): Ira Hessel (172), Guillermo Poplawsky (173), Bert Onstott (174), Bob Butterfield (176), Steve Shirey (183), Martha De Cou (187), Carol Schoenhals (197), Sally Blewett (201), Norinne Nelson (205), Jack Lacy (207), Gay Roach (225), David Pennington (233) and Johnny Johnson (237).

Committee Chairs and others present: Charles Price, Dan Morse, Dewitt Hudson, Scott Humphrey, Jonathan Ernest, James Thurtell, Tom Whitesides, Lew Levy, Ellen Hessel, Paul Cuneo, Herman Westbank, David Wilson and Candyce Pfluger.

The meeting was called to order by President Ira Hessel.

Election of Officers: The following persons were elected as the District's officers for the next year:

President: Charles Price

First Vice President: Dewitt Hudson

Second Vice President: Bert Onstott

Executive Treasurer: Lew Levy

Executive Secretary: Bob Butterfield

Charles Price, as the new President, assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held September 5, 2009 were approved as presented to the meeting.

District Director: Dan Morse reported that the ACBL has awarded the District \$10,000 to give to charities. The District now has more than 9,000 members, which would entitle us to an additional Regional beginning in 2012 if that membership level is maintained at June 1, 2010. The ACBL's membership is now in excess of 165,000. The ACBL paid more than \$7,000 for advertising programs within the District last year pursuant to the ACBL's cooperative advertising program. Under this program, the ACBL will pay 75% of qualifying advertising expenditures by Units. An international mind sports competition

is scheduled for September 2011. It will be conducted by Sports Accord, an organization approved by the International Olympic Committee, and will include games (including bridge) approved by the International Olympic Committee but not included in the Olympics. Four international teams, one of which will represent North America, will be permitted to compete in each game.

Executive Treasurer: Lew Levy presented the District Treasurer's Report for 2009, which included the District's financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009. He stated that (i) revenues exceeded expenses by \$10,490 for the year and (ii) the total assets of the District exceeded its total liabilities by \$34,754 at the end of the year. He noted that the excess revenues for 2009 compares favorably with the total for 2008 (\$9,371) primarily because the 2009 number includes the Puerto Vallarta Regional results for both 2008 and 2009. In the past, Puerto Vallarta Regional results were one year in arrears. Future financials will incorporate Puerto Vallarta Regional results for the then current year. He also noted that the District Grand National Teams subsidy now exceeds District GNT revenues as a result of the Board decision to grant a subsidy to the Super Flight team. Scorecard expenses continued to exceed Scorecard revenues in 2009 by approximately \$4,000. The balance sheet shows that the District's financial position is stable. Money market rates have been extremely low, so a portion of the District's excess cash has been invested in short-term CDs. The plan is to roll these CDs over when they expire if no short term need for the cash arises.

Awards: Scott Humphrey reported that 12 Texas Star Awards for 2009 would be presented that evening, as well as several Goodwill awards.

Charity: Carol Schoenhals suggested that the District donate the \$10,000 to be received from the ACBL to benefit Haiti refugees through the Red Cross. A motion to do so was approved by the Board.

Disciplinary: Jim Thurtell noted that members should not contact him to ask if charges should be brought with respect to disciplinary matters. The role of the District Disciplinary Committee is to focus on charges that are brought, and it is inappropriate for the Chairman of the committee to advise as to whether charges should be brought.

Education and Membership: A report submitted by Betty Starzec relating to ACBL membership by District and by Unit within the District was distributed. It included detailed information as of December 31, 2009 with respect to active membership numbers, new member gains, member losses, average age of members and average years of membership. District 16 ranks fourth among ACBL districts with 9,023 members. New member retention within the District has improved over the last three years from 58.02% to 67.66%, which exceeds that ACBL-wide percentage of 66.37%. The gain in new members in the District of 943 in 2009 ranked second of all ACBL Districts. The percentage of District members lost in 2009 was 5.47%, approximately equal to the ACBL-wide average of 5.37%. The average age of District members was 68.51, in line with the ACBL-wide average of 68.91. The average years of membership of District members was 19.39, compared to the ACBL-wide average of 19.21.

Internet: Bert Onstott reported that the District has moved to a new web host (Just Host) to improve reliability for the District's website.

Publicity: Sally Blewett reported that her committee is considering distributing pocket calendars to promote District tournaments. She also noted that great publicity can be obtained through the use of Unit websites.

North American Pairs: A suggestion was made that pre-duplicated boards be used in NAP games so that hand records can be provided. Jack Lacy requested that the responsibilities of the persons participating in the NAP finals (Units, directors and others) be reduced to writing and distributed.

Mexico: Norinne Nelson stated that there are two new clubs in Mexico, which represents a 23% increase in the number of clubs there. She also noted that they are working on the Puerto Vallarta Regional for 2010.

Scorecard: Ellen Hessel reported that announcements in the Scorecard from other Districts have increased, and that mailing costs for the Scorecard have also increased.

Board of Governors Report: DeWitt Hudson reported that the Dallas area has been approved to host the Spring North America Bridge Championships in 2014, assuming appropriate arrangements with a hotel can be made. He also noted that an article will appear in the ACBL Bulletin honoring Howard Wilkins, the former director from Unit 224 who recently died.

Charles Price recognized and commended Unit 174 for the excellent work done in putting on the Houston Regional.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.