



American Contract Bridge League District 16



Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held

February 2, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Westchase Marriott Hotel, Houston, Texas on February 2, 2013.

Board members, Committee Chairs, and others present

- Bert Onstott..... Unit 174 Representative, Membership, Internet, and President
- Jo Smith.....Unit 224 Representative and 1st Vice President
- Lew Levy.....Executive Treasurer
- Tomi FitzGerald..... Unit 176 Representative
- Carolyn Pinto..... Unit 183 Representative
- Martha De Cou..... Unit 187 Representative
- Carol Schoenhals..... Unit 197 Representative
- Sally Blewett..... Unit 201 Representative
- Larry Davis Unit 207 Representative
- Gay Roach..... Unit 225 Representative
- David Pennington Unit 233 Representative
- Dan Morse..... District representative to the ACBL Board of Directors
- Dewitt Hudson District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors
- James ThurtellDisciplinary Committee Chair and Grand National Teams Coordinator
- Melody Euler.....North American Pairs Coordinator
- Scott HumphreyAwards Committee Chair and Tournament Sanctions Coordinator
- Paul CuneoEducation Committee Chair
- Jonathan Ernest.....Appellate Committee Chair
- Betty Starzec..... District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors
- Robert Morris.....District 2nd Alternate Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors
- Rebecca Brown Unit 172 (substituting for Ira Hessel)
- Savana Savage..... Unit 209 (substituting for Sandy Rea)
- George and Helen Van Armburg.....Unit 237 (substituting for Johnny Johnson)
- Joan Paradeis..... Unit 353 (substituting for Kathleen Brown)
- Martha Harvey Unit 353 Alternate
- Belle Harris..... Unit 209 Alternate

Call to Order

President Bert Onstott called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected by acclamation:

- Jo Smith, President;
- Jim Thurtell, 1st Vice President
- Paul Cuneo, 2nd Vice President
- Lew Levy, Executive Treasurer

- Rebecca Brown, Executive Secretary, replacing Bob Butterfield, whose resignation as Executive Secretary was announced.

The Board expressed its gratitude to Messrs. Onstott and Butterfield for their excellent service.

Past Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on September 1, 2012 as submitted was made and seconded and approved without opposition.

Treasurer's Report

Bert Onstott presented the report of the district finances as of December 31, 2012, and a budget for 2013 as prepared by Lew Levy, the District 16 Treasurer.

A motion to approve the previously submitted treasurer's report and budget as presented was made and seconded and approved without opposition.

Committee Reports

District Director's Report

Dan Morse reported that ACBL membership increased by 214 members in January; District 16 is the 4th largest in the nation. More than \$13,000 in revenue was generated by the Grass Roots games, which funds will be used for the GNTs and NAPs. The revenue generated was the second highest in the U.S., with only Florida generating more. Mr. Morse also announced a new event, a Swiss team event open only to those with under 10,000 points, will be introduced at the St. Louis NABC in which platinum points may be won.

Awards

Scott Humphrey reminded us that nominations for the Oswald Jacoby award must be submitted by June 30. The award will be made at the regional held over Labor Day

North American Pairs

Melody Euler reported that all ten qualifying pairs are going to the NABC. Pairs attending will receive the District subsidy checks after the event in the following amounts: \$100 per person for 1st place; 2nd place (and 3rd place in Flight B only) receives \$200 per player; 3rd place (and 4th in Flight B) receive \$300. The total amounts paid, including the ACBL payments, are \$800, \$500 and \$300, respectively.

Charity

Carol Schoenhals reported that the thirteen sites which participated in the District-wide charity game, held on October 10, 2012, contributed a total of \$322 to the Charity Foundation.

STaC

Tomi FitzGerald reported that the District STaC games are scheduled to be held May 6-12, 2013. Unit representatives should distribute notice of these dates to club owners.



Education

Paul Cuneo reported that the Units should encourage TAP courses, Bridge at Schools (noting grants from Buffet and Gates). The ACBL has free packets of information available to help Units bring bridge into schools. The ACBL is also investigating how to best encourage bridge among wounded veterans. There was discussion about trying to replicate Eddie Wold's successful venture at Rice University where he and Bob Morris teach once a week for two hours and the students receive one credit.

GNT

Jim Thurtell suggested that a way to encourage participation among Flight A players might be to consider adding Flight AX for players with 2,000-5000 points.

Intermediate/Novice: Carolyn Pinto reminded us that contact is important from Unit members reaching out to new players.

Internet

Bert Onstott reported that there are no issues of which he is aware.

Membership

Bert Onstott reported that District membership continues to drop, though Dallas and Unit 187 membership increased.

Tournaments

Scott Humphrey urges Units to get their sanction requests in at least 90 days before tournaments. He reported that there has been an increase in 299'er tournaments.

Board of Governors

Dewitt Hudson announced that Richard Anderson is the new Chair.

Old Business

None

New Business

Audit Committee

The District Treasurer, Lew Levy, noticed in late 2012 that the District Bylaws require a formal annual audit of the District finances every year. That requirement has not been followed in the past few years; in fact there seems to be no record of it ever being done.

To address the issue, Bert Onstott appointed an Audit Committee consisting of Robert Donathan of Austin (chair), Jim Woodward of Houston, and Ray Clark of Dallas to investigate the issue and recommend a solution.

The committee reported their recommendation that the District By-Laws be amended to allow for an annual review to be conducted by a qualified financial profession instead of requiring a formal audit by a CPA.

To comply with the bylaw revision procedure in the District bylaws, the proposed bylaw change



will be published in the Scorecard and voted on during the July District Board meeting

Unit Reports

A Rockport Sectional is to be held 2/15-17/2013.

An Abilene Regional is to be held October 14-20, 2013.

Dallas will host the 2014 NABC at the Sheraton from 3/20-3/30/2014.

It was clarified that Non-Life Master Tournaments do not count toward the four sectional limit per Unit.

Recognize Host Unit

Houston Unit 174 was recognized for hosting a wonderful regional tournament, with great table count!

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved without opposition at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rebecca Brown, District 16 Executive Secretary

