



American Contract Bridge League

District 16



Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 1, 2014

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, Houston, Texas on February 1, 2014.

Board members, Committee Chairs, and others present

- Jo Smith..... Unit 224 Representative and President
- Jim Thurtell,1st Vice President, GNT Coordinator, Disciplinary Committee
- Paul Cuneo.....Unit 174 Representative and 2nd Vice President
- Lew Levy.....Executive Treasurer
- Rebecca Brown Executive Secretary
- Robert Hartman CEO, ACBL
- Carolyn Pinto..... Unit 183 Representative
- Dave Ticen Unit 187 Alternate
- Greg Loran Unit 197 Representative
- Virginia Noelke Unit 204 Alternate
- Larry Davis Unit 207 Representative
- David Pennington Unit 233 Representative
- Gay Roach..... Unit 225 Representative
- Joan Paradeis..... Unit 353 Representative
- Dan Morse..... District 16 Director, ACBL Board of Directors
- Dewitt Hudson District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors
- Melody Euler.....North American Pairs Coordinator
- Scott Humphrey..... Awards, Tournament Coordinator
- Jonathan Ernest.....Appellate Coordinator
- Nancy Strohmer Charity Coordinator
- Bert Onstott..... Membership, Internet Coordinator
- Betty Starzec..... District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors
- Chuck EnsorPresident, Unit 174
- Beverly Cheatham VP, Unit 174

Call to Order

President Jo Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present. She then welcomed our special guest, Robert Hartman, CEO of the ACBL. She also recognized Nancy Strohmer, new Charity Coordinator, replacing Carol Schoenhals (whose recent death was noted with great sorrow.)

Past Meeting Minutes

Paul Cuneo moved to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2013 meeting. Joan Paradeis seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

1. President: Jim Thurtell was nominated by Betty Starzec, seconded by Dan Morse and

- Carolyn Pinto. Jim Thurtell was elected by acclamation.
2. 1st Vice President: Paul Cuneo was nominated by Bert Onstott, seconded by Betty Starzec, Paul Cuneo was elected.
 3. 2nd Vice President: David Pennington was nominated by Dewitt Hudson, seconded by Larry Davis. David Pennington was elected.
 4. Treasurer: Lew Levy was nominated by Paul Cuneo, seconded by Dan Morse. Lew Levy was elected.
 5. Secretary: Rebecca Brown was nominated by Joan Paradeis, seconded by Paul Cuneo. Rebecca Brown was elected.

Treasurer's Report

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report (with accompanying Year End Balance Sheet for 2013 and profit and loss statement) was made and seconded and approved without opposition.

The Treasurer reported an excess of almost \$10,000 over budget due to the Grass Roots Fund. The Nationals fund was liquidated and \$20,000 was sent to Dallas Unit 176 for the NABC.

The Treasurer also presented a proposed 2014 Budget.

Committee Reports

District Director's Report

Dan Morse suggested that Units invite our guest, ACBL CEO, Robert Hartman, to attend Regionals. Mr. Hartman reported that the ACBL is working on a new look and feel for the organization, including for the website and Bulletin. He anticipated that the new website would be rolled out by the Dallas NABC. He also informed us that the NABC plus events are to be tested in Hilton Head, including the new "learn to play bridge" program. Dan Morse added that \$20,000 will be allotted by the ACBL for District disbursements by Labor Day.

Awards

Scott Humphrey reported that the Texas Star Award winners will be announced later in the day. Nominations for the Jacoby Award are due by June 30.

Charity

Units and their members may reach Nancy Strohmer at nstrohmer@yahoo.com with their nominations for charities to receive funds.

North American Pairs

Melody Euler reported that the NAPs table count was down by 2 tables over last year. Clubs are allowed to hold two qualifiers per month during the summer. This year the District got a new at-large subsidy for Flight B; more C Flight participants are needed before the District can qualify for an additional subsidy in that flight.)

STaC

STaC week starts the Monday after Mother's Day (May 12). Sue Doe will be the Director In Charge.



Education

Paul Cuneo reported that both the TAP and Directors courses were offered at the Houston Regional. There was some discussion about the need for follow-up after the presentation of the “Whirlwind Bridge” course.

GNT

Jim Thurtell stated that Flights A and C will compete during the Houston Election Sectional and Flight B will compete in Dallas. He reminded us that better turnout is needed from among Flight C players.

Intermediate/Novice: Carolyn Pinto also noted that greater follow-up is needed with novice players who participate in the “bridge in a day” and other classes.

Tournaments

Scott Humphrey reported that sanctions requests for 2015 are tentative until GNT dates are set (this year’s split of the GNT is a trial). Tyler regional will be in April; Ft. Worth will get the even # years in the Spring. Tomi FitzGerald will replace Charlie Price, whose resignation is noted, as Tournament Chair.

Membership

We currently have 8850 members in the District.

Board of Governors

There were 12,500 tables in play at the Phoenix NABC, at which time the last BOG meeting was held. The ACBL has a policy banning electronic cigarettes at NABCs.

Unit Reports

None.

Old Business

The Regional Schedule committee, chaired by Ira Hessel, submitted an advisory schedule for small and medium regional tournaments held within the District. Dan Morse moved that the District recommend that Units adopt the proposed schedules. Paul Cuneo seconded. Motion carried. The templates will be published on our District website and in the Scorecard. Parenthetically, Robert Hartman noted that the ACBL is working on templates for different tournaments and will study our District’s suggestions. The ACBL templates are expected to be ready in March or April, 2014.

There also ensued a spirited discussion about the appropriate number of boards for tournaments. This discussion was tabled for future consideration.

New Business

1. Betty Starzec informed those present that Eddie Wold continues to teach bridge at Rice University, usually having 6 tables in play. He would like to host at least 8 players in Houston for training, especially since several of them will represent the ACBL in Turkey. Eddie Wold is offering his services without charge. He has the venue, but is hoping that the District will help defray the cost of lodging, transportation and food. Joan Paradeis moved that the District give \$2,000 to Wold for this teaching weekend and the associated costs. Nancy Strohmmer second. The motion carried. (Note: Robert Hartman



added that the Jr. Fund of the ACBL is “underwater”.)

2. Unit 353 asks permission to host its sectional on District 15 property, as needed. District 15 has given its approval. Motion to grant permission carried.
3. Motion to approve the proposed Final Budget for 2014, as amended to reflect the following changes from the Preliminary Budget: Total Revenue Sources increased from \$19,300 to \$28,000; Grass Roots Fund increased from \$1,310 to \$10,000; Total Operating Expense increased from \$7,900 to \$9,900; Education Expense increased from \$0 to \$2,000. Surplus increased from \$0 to \$6,700. The motion carried.

Host Unit

Jim Thurtell recognized the outstanding job done by Jo Smith in her tenure as President and thanked her for all her dedication to the District. He also congratulated Unit 174 on its excellent regional tournament.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved without opposition at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rebecca Brown, District 16 Executive Secretary

