

**American Contract Bridge League District 16
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held January 29, 2011**

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 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2011.

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), Sally Blewett (201), Larry Davis (207), Jo Smith (224), Gay Roach (225), David Pennington (233) and Johnny Johnson (237).

Committee Chairs and others present: Dan Morse (District representative to the ACBL Board of Directors), Dewitt Hudson and Betty Starzec (District Representatives to the ACBL Board of Governors), Paul Cuneo (Education Committee Chair), James Thurtell (Disciplinary Committee Chair), Jim Bauer (Grand National Teams Committee Chair), Dorsey Shaw (Intermediate/Novice Committee Chair), Melody Euler (North American Pairs Committee Chair), Tom Whitesides (Tournament Coordinator), Ellen Hessel (Scorecard Editor) and Lew Crippen (Unit 205).

In the absence of President Charles Price, First Vice President Dewitt Hudson called the meeting to order.

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

President: Dewitt Hudson

First Vice President: Bert Onstott

Second Vice President: Jo Smith

Executive Secretary: Bob Butterfield

Executive Treasurer: Lew Levy

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Board held September 4, 2010, were approved as presented to the meeting.

District Director: Dan Morse reported that Jay Baum is retiring in 2012 as the Executive Director of the ACBL, and that candidates to replace him are being sought. He also

reported that the ACBL has developed a radio ad directed towards newcomers and empty nesters. Units which would like to use this ad would be eligible for 75% reimbursement of advertising costs incurred. The ACBL is now working on a similar television ad. He noted that the new president of the ACBL is working on visiting clubs and has a goal of visiting 50 clubs during the last half of this year.

Executive Treasurer: The Executive Treasurer's Report for calendar year 2010 was presented, including the District's Profit and Loss Statement for the calendar year and its Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2010. The Report noted that (i) revenues exceeded expenses by \$15,630 in 2010 (compared to \$10,490 in 2009), primarily as a result of the profitability of the Puerto Vallarta Regional, the addition of another Regional in the District, the profitability of the STaC games and the fact that the Scorecard ran at a smaller deficit than had been experienced in prior years, (ii) the District GNT subsidy continues to exceed GNT revenues as a result of the Board decision to grant a decision to grant a subsidy to the Super Flight team and (iii) the balance sheet shows that the District financial position is stable. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Education: Paul Cuneo reported that 21 people attended the Teacher Accreditation Program course at the Houston Regional. He recommended that the District devote some funds to education or teacher appreciation events. After discussion, a motion to spend \$2,500 on such events in the next year, as determined by the Chair of the Education Committee, was approved.

Grand National Teams: Jim Bauer discussed the subsidy to be provided by the District to District GNT team winners. After discussion, a motion to provide a subsidy of \$1,000 to the winning teams of Flights A, B and C and the Super Flight who attend the GNT finals at the Summer NABC was approved. After discussion of the location for the District GNT finals for this year, a motion that those finals be held in conjunction with the Dallas Memorial Day Sectional was approved.

Membership: Bert Onstott distributed a report showing membership by Unit within the District for each month in the last year. It noted that membership has been above 9,000 for the last four months, though (at 9,012 currently) it is down slightly from a year ago. He stated that we all need to keep working to maintain our membership.

Intermediate/Novice: Dorsey Shaw reported that she has gotten feedback from several persons in Texas regarding recruitment and development of novice and intermediate players. They include recruiting players from social bridge clubs and the use of mentor programs to encourage newer players. She stated that she was developing proposals regarding I/N players for submission to the Board.

North American Pairs: Melody Euler reported that she is trying to get feedback on schedules for the NAP games to attempt to maximize the number of boards played. She also stated that participation at the club level in NAP games was up in all flights this year.

Publicity: Sally Blewett suggested that all Units take actions to honor teachers. She also reminded everyone to use co-op advertising (with respect to which the ACBL will pay 75% of the cost) and to take advantage of free advertising in local newspapers' community bulletin boards, etc. She stated that she would submit proposals regarding use of publicity at the next Board meeting.

Mexico: Lew Crippen reported that the Puerto Vallarta Regional made a profit.

Scorecard: Ellen Hessel stated that she and Ira have been working to improve accuracy in the Scorecard. She also noted that the financial results of the Scorecard have improved and that they expect it will be close to breaking even this year.

Unit Reports: Johnny Johnson reported that Unit 237 membership has been steady lately and that its Secional tournament would be held December 9-11 this year. Steve Shirey stated that the Fort Worth (Unit 183) Sectional normally held in June would be in April this year. Martha De Cou stated that the Unit 187 Secional would be held February 18-20 in Rockport. Larry Davis (Unit 207) reported that they got the hotel at which the recent Austin Sectional was held to permit them to bring in boxed lunches for the Swiss Teams on the final day of the tournament by paying the hotel a surcharge. Ira Hessel (Unit 172) reported that, at the recent San Antonio Sectional, they limited games to two sessions per day, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and served a snack in between sessions. There was an increase at the tournament of more than 200%.

Dewitt Hudson 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.