

**American Contract Bridge League District 16  
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held July 7, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Doubletree Hotel, 6505 IH 35 North, in Austin, Texas at 8:30 a.m. on July 7, 2012.

**Board members present** (Units represented in parentheses): Ira Hessel (172), Bert Onstott (174), Tomi Fitzgerald (176), Carolyn Pinto (183), Carol Schoenhals (197), Neal Perlman (204), 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 (District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors), Betty Starzec (District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors), Paul Cuneo (Education Committee Chair), James Thurtell (Disciplinary Committee Chair and Grand National Teams Coordinator), Charles Price (Tournaments Committee Chair), Jonathan Ernest (Appelate Committee Chair), Melody Euler (North American Pairs Coordinator), Lew Levy (Executive Treasurer), Bob Butterfield (Executive Secretary), Chris Compton (Alternate District representative to the ACBL Board of Governors), Dee Schade (Unit 187), and Steve Penning (Unit 205).

President Bert Onstott called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of the Board held February 4, 2012 were approved as presented to the meeting.

**District Director:** Dan Morse reported that the ACBL recently conducted a telephone calling and email campaign that resulted in the recruitment of 52 new members, and that the ACBL membership is up for the year. He noted that Phase 1 of ACBL SCORE+, the new software being developed to replace ACBL Score, has been completed. In addition, he stated that a list of the top clubs in District 16 (based on the number of tables played) will be published in the Scorecard. He also reported that Sharon Anderson, the ACBL President, has been spending considerable time discussing with ACBL members their concerns about ACBL matters.

**Executive Treasurer:** Lew Levy presented the Executive Treasurer's Report for the first six months of 2012, including the District's Profit and Loss Statement for the six months ended June 30, 2012, its Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2012, and a comparison of the year-to-date actual results and the 2012 budget, and it was reviewed and approved by the

Board. The Report noted that (i) the Profit and Loss Statement shows a shortfall of revenues compared to expenses of \$818, compared to the prior year's surplus of \$2,394, (ii) the primary reason for the difference was that the Board increased the GNT subsidy, (iii) another factor that accounted for the current year shortfall is that printing and postage expenses associated with delivery of the Scorecard have increased, (iv) the District subsidy to Grand National Teams winners continues to exceed GNT revenues as a result of the increase in the subsidy from \$4,000 to \$6,000 later in 2011, (v) the balance sheet shows that the District's financial position is strong and (vi) the reserve established for the next District NABC event is now \$14,062. Lew noted that the budget comparison included in the Report is new. Because the budget is for the full year, certain categories will be unfavorable because they occur later in the year. The primary purpose of the budget is to assist the Board in allocating funding. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. After discussion, a motion was approved that future District financial reports will be prepared quarterly and approved by the Board semi-annually.

**Charity:** Carol Schoenhals reported that a District-wide charity game will be held October 16.

**Grand National Teams:** Jim Thurtell presented a financial report showing the income received and the expenses incurred in connection with the 2012 District GNT finals. The Superflight finals recorded a net deficit of \$519, while the finals for Flights A, B, and C produced net income of \$1,188, resulting in total net income of \$669. Jim noted that holding a separate event for the Superflight cost approximately \$1,100, and suggested that the 2013 Superflight finals should be held together with the 2013 finals for the other flights. After discussion, a motion was approved that the next 2013 Superflight finals be held together with the 2013 finals for Flights A, B, and C, and that those finals be held at the May 2013 Sectional in Dallas unless the dates for that tournament conflict with the trials for the ACBL Open Team and the ACBL Women's Team being held next Spring, in which case they be held at the March Sectional in Dallas. Jim also noted that relatively few Flight C teams have been entering the District GNT competition lately, and that efforts are being made to increase participation in Flight C. Among other things, consideration is being given to not requiring qualification.

**Membership:** Bert Onstott reported that total District membership has decreased by 123 since December 31, 2011. At July 1, 2012, the District had 8,907 members.

**North American Pairs:** Melody Euler reported that the participation in this year's NAP games is on target to match the participation last year. She is trying to encourage increased participation by communicating the increased subsidies being given to winners by the District this year.

**Tournaments:** Charles Price presented a proposal for the allocation of the District's Regional tournaments beginning in 2016. Under the proposal, assuming the District has five Regionals per year to allocate, Dallas and Houston would host a Regional each year, San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth and Tyler would host a Regional every other year and Abilene, Beaumont and Corpus Christi would host a Regional every third year. Lubbock

has elected not to host Regionals in the foreseeable future. Larry Davis presented an alternate proposal pursuant to which, over each six-year period, Dallas and Fort Worth combined would host eight Regionals (rather than nine) and San Antonio and Austin combined would host seven Regionals (rather than six). After discussion of both proposals, a motion to approve the proposal presented by Charles Price passed.

**Mexico Regional:** Steve Pennington stated that the Puerto Vallarta Regional would be held at the Westin Hotel this year.

**Board of Governors:** Dewitt Hudson noted that Chris Compton is running for Chairman of the ACBL Board of Governors, and encouraged everyone to support Chris in seeking this office. He also stated that the President of the ACBL would like to visit our District this year.

Bert Onstott stated that, because most District Units had indicated they would not be interested in using the dealing machine that had been considered for purchase by the District, we would not purchase the machine.

Bert Onstott recognized and commended Unit 207 for the excellent work done in putting on the Austin Regional.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.