

American Contract Bridge League District 16
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors Held September 3, 2011

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held at the Renaissance Dallas-Richardson Hotel, Richardson, Texas at 10:00 a.m. on September 3, 2011.

Board members present (Units represented in parentheses): Ira Hessel (172), Bert Onstott (174), Bob Butterfield (176), Carolyn Pinto (183), Carol Schoenhals (197), Sally Blewett (201), Neal Perlman (204), and Larry Davis (207).

Committee Chairs and others present: Dewitt Hudson (President and District Representative to the ACBL Board of Governors), Dan Morse (District Representative to the ACBL Board of Directors), Scott Humphrey (Awards Committee Chair), James Thurtell (Disciplinary Committee Chair), Jim Bauer (Grand National Teams Coordinator), Bert Onstott (Membership Committee Chair and Internet Coordinator), Melody Euler (North American Pairs Coordinator), Charles Price (Tournaments Committee Chair) and Ellen Hessel (Scorecard Editor).

President Dewitt Hudson called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Board held July 2, 2011 were approved as presented to the meeting.

Executive Treasurer: The Executive Treasurer's Report submitted by Lew Levy, including the District's Profit and Loss Statement for the eight months ended August 31, 2011 and its Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2011 was reviewed by the Board. The Report noted that (i) the Profit and Loss Statement shows a small excess of revenues over expenses, (ii) in 2010, revenues exceeded expenses by \$15,000, (iii) we will have a smaller surplus in 2011 primarily because there are fewer Regional tournaments and the financial support to Grand National Teams winners was increased, (iv) the Puerto Vallarta Regional should generate surplus revenues this year, (vi) some of the expenses for this year's Puerto Vallarta Regional have already been booked, and (vii) the Scorecard is operating with a positive cash flow. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

District Director: Dan Morse reported that Robert Hartman, the new Chief Executive Officer of the ACBL, will focus as a priority on member recruitment and retention. He also noted that the ACBL has a new television spot advertisement aimed at baby boomers and empty nesters that may be used by Units and is eligible for the ACBL's 75% co-op

advertising program. He further noted that Sectional tournaments, by charging \$1 extra for up to two sessions, can get a Regional points rating for those sessions.

Awards: Scott Humphrey reported that the Oswald Jacoby Award would be presented before the evening session that night. He also noted that nominations from Units for Texas Star and Goodwill awards are due by December 31, including photos and bios for the nominees. He presented a handout describing these awards and the rules relating to them, and noted that this information appears on the District website.

Charity: Carol Schoenhals reported that a District-wide charity game was held August 22, 2011, and that a game benefitting the Foundation Fund is scheduled for October 21, 2011.

Grand National Teams: Jim Bauer reported that Conditions of Contest for the Grand National Teams games have been issued. He noted that those rules permit District finals to be conducted electronically.

North American Pairs: Melody Euler reported that participation at the club level was up approximately 28% this year in the North American Pairs competition in District 16. She noted that, at the Unit level, there is the option to qualify up to 60% of the field. She stated that she is working on possible ways to improve the District NAP finals this year, such as starting games at 10 am and 3 pm, providing a free lunch between sessions, etc.

Membership: Bert Onstott distributed a report showing District membership by Unit monthly for the last 12 months. It states that total District membership is currently 8,963, an increase of 34 since July. It also noted that Bert has received membership goals from Units 172, 174 and 183. Membership goals from Units 197 and 201 were distributed at the meeting. Bert stated that he plans to post on the District website the Unit growth goals and their action plans to achieve their goals.

Internet: Bert Onstott presented a chart detailing internet traffic at the District's website. He noted that traffic continues to be high, with a total of 233,714 visits (57,323 unique visitors) so far in 2011.

Tournaments. Charles Price submitted a schedule showing Regionals scheduled in the District through 2015. It noted that dates are getting more difficult to get , and recommended scheduling three years in advance. He noted that the Regional being held in Lubbock next year will be held April 24-29, 2012.

Scorecard: Ellen Hessel reported that the Scorecard is currently operating at a profit. She also noted that she and Ira have developed a page to be added to the District's website by next January that will explain how to prepare announcements, pictures, etc. for the Scorecard, as well as containing archives of prior Scorecard issues.

Unit Reports: Carol Schoenhals reported that “8 is enough” games are very successful in Unit 197, and encouraged other Units to try them. Larry Davis reported that Unit 207 is working on a possible 299er Regional for 2012. Carolyn Pinto reported that Unit 183 will be hosting an extra Regional in 2014 (from November 10 though 16). Melody Euler reported that the recent Waco Sectional in Unit 203 was very successful. Sally Blewett reported that Unit 201 has been successful in getting publicity placed on radio and in newspapers in their area. She also stated that they provide 30-minute lessons and supervised play at intermediate/novice games. They also try to make I/N players feel important and try to get them involved in Board and Unit activities.

Dewitt Hudson stated that the President of the ACBL, Craig Robinson, recently visited numerous clubs within the District, and that attendance increased greatly at many of the club games he attended.

Dewitt Hudson recognized and commended Unit 176 for the excellent work done in putting on the Dallas Regional.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.