

**Dallas Bridge Association Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting 01/15/24**

Attendees: Milt Neher, Bill Driscoll, Connie Scott, Stuart Nelan, Truett Cates, Bill Higgins, Paul Taylor, Bob Holliday, and Cheryl Rider were present. Retiring board member Eileen Davidoff also attended. The January meeting was held at the home of Eileen Davidoff.

The November minutes were approved.

Ed Yetter provided the financial reports, which were approved.

As of December 31, 2023 the unit has total cash assets of \$92,427.26. There is \$39,551.63 in the checking account and \$52,875.63 in the Fidelity investment account. The Unit finished the year with a net income of \$8231.52 and exceeded the net income budget by \$6,426.52.

This result is due in part to unexpectedly high returns from the Fidelity Investment account of \$2812.02, on a budgeted loss of \$600. The other factor in this result is strong net income growth from our sectional tournaments of \$10,870.09, on a budget of \$3,000. This is unlikely to continue going forward due to the rising costs to hold these tournaments.

2024 Officer selection and committee assignments.

The Board selected their officers for 2023. They are:

President: Connie Scott

Vice President: Bill Higgins

Secretary: Stuart Nelan

Treasurer: Bob Holliday

The following are the 2024 committee assignments:

ACBL Electronic Contact: Bob Holliday

Charity Chair: Stuart Nelan

Equipment Liason – Cheryl Rider

Hospitality: Pat Measley

Election Chair: TBD

Member Communications: Bill Driscoll

NAP/GNT Chair: Milt Neher

STAC Coordinator: Ed Yetter

Table Talk Newsletter: Sue Greims

Unit Game/Pro-Am Coordinator: Milt Neher

Business Manager: Edward Yetter

District 16 Representative: Scott Nason

Equipment Managers – Chuck Eastin

Intermediate/Newcomer Chair: Truett Cates

Membership Chair: Bill Higgins

Publicity Chair: Paul Taylor

Scorecard: Bill Driscoll

Recognition Committee: Stuart Nelan & Paul Taylor

Tournament Coordinator: Milt Neher

Webmaster: Ed Yetter

Bill Higgins presented the membership report for December

The unit had 6 new members in December. Seven members were reinstated. Two members transferred in and 5 members became inactive. The unit ended the year with membership of 1353. Bill pointed out that he reviews the In/Out reports each month and often there are members listed as having received an ACBL notice who have no idea their dues are unpaid. He encouraged all board members to review the report and inform any members on the list that they know personally or see at the clubs. For the year 2023 membership declined from 1376 to 1353, a decline of 1.6%.

Bill Driscoll and Bob Holliday presented the member communications report for August and September via email.

Date	Reads	Percent Read	Clicks on Links	Unsubs	Spam	Bounces	Email Theme
11/02/23	759	65.2%%	64	1	0	1	November Newsletter
11/11/23	738	63.40%	71	0	0	0	Dallas Fall Sectional Holiday Party
11/14/23	723	62.40%	57	0	0	1	Dallas Fall Sectional Starts Tomorrow
11/26/23	751	64.70%	61	0	0	0	Holiday Party
12/01/23	760	65.50%	117	0	0	1	December Newsletter
12/10/23	734	63.30%	203	0	0	0	Unit Board Election Online Ballot
12/14/23	723	62,4%	68	0	0	1	Online Ballot Eight is Enough
12/20/23	687	59.50%	44	0	0	0	Online Ballot Eight is Enough
12/27/23	701	60.70%	43	1	0	0	Online Ballot Eight is Enough

Upcoming emails will focus on the Dallas Winter Sectional and the March 10 Unit Game. The 2027 NABC Announcement will also be highlighted.

Cheryl Rider led a discussion of Equipment Issues

Chuck Eastin is now the Unit Equipment Manager after shadowing Valarie Remmers at the Fall Sectional. Cheryl will follow up with Chuck to see if he needs additional guidance or assistance for the next event – the February Sectional.

Milt Neher led a discussion of the 2023 Holiday Party and presented a Unit Game and Pro/Am report.

The Holiday Party was held on December 10, 2023. The food was adequate, though not outstanding. The prizes and process for awarding them went off well. The two main problems were the bathrooms (especially the women's bathroom) and the space was crowded. There have been numerous complains about the women's bathroom. The venue opened up one sleeping room to use as a bathroom but that was inadequate and inconvenient. The space issue may be resolved when the full space is available and there is no buffet table at the front of the room.

The first unit game of 2024 will be held on March 10, 2024 at Congregation Shearith Israel. Other unit games are pending confirming venue availability. Milt presented a schedule for unit games in 2024 but the venues are not confirmed. Bill Higgins and Cheryl Rider were appointed lead an effort to look for other venues and to again approach King of Glory church about hosting these games on Sunday afternoon.

The first Pro/Am of the year was held on January 9 at King of Glory church and was sponsored by Friendly Bridge Club. Friendly also held an 8-is-enough event in the evening following the Pro/Am. The Unit provided Pizza between sessions. Neither event was well attended. Friendly is not interested in hosting another one. Some players complained that playing 2 sessions in one day was too much for them. Some did not want to stay for the evening team event due to driving concerns.

Gerrie Owen – Valley View Bridge Club is interested in hosting a Pro-Am event later this year. Because of other events on the schedule it will not be practical to hold this event before or June or later.

The interest in Pro/Am events seems to have declined since they were first introduced in 2022. The board will discuss whether, and how future Pro/Am events should be managed at the February board meeting.

The Board discussed tournament issues.

Milt Neher presented a recap of the 2023 November Fall Sectional.

- There was a lot of discussion around not providing box lunches on Saturday. Box lunches create a lot of clean-up work for the venue, are messy and costly but seem to be appreciated by the players. After some discussion the Board decided to not offer box lunches at future tournaments and invest that money in programs that grow participation elsewhere.
- The hospitality was great as always. Some items were put out around lunch time to offer players a light lunch option. Unfortunately, these items were taken by the players who finished first and there was none left for those who finished later. The Board decided to ask the hospitality team not to try to provide a light lunch. Players can bring their own lunches or purchase lunch at the church cafe or at nearby restaurants or fast-food places.
- The “bracket 1” problem once again became an issue. The fully bracketed team option has not resolved this issue. The board may revisit team events at sectionals at future board meetings.

For the February Winter Sectional Bob Holliday agreed to be the partnership chair. Ed Yetter will notify the ACBL to update their website for February.

A partnership chair is needed for the April sectional and volunteers are needed for the May and November sectionals.

With the May and November tournaments contracted at the Holiday Inn in Richardson, and considering the problems encountered at the Holiday Party, the board discussed whether to look for other options. Ed Yetter will contact the Holiday Inn to set up a meeting with board members to discuss the problems encountered, and how they can be addressed at the sectional.

The 2024 Dallas Labor Day Regional will begin on Tuesday, August 27 and conclude on Sunday, September 1. Several other regional tournaments in our district have held an on-line regional event the day before their tournament begins. These have been popular and well attended. The board will consider whether to hold such an event on Monday, August 26. Stuart Nelan will gather information and provide to the board for consideration.

Other Business

- The board needs to visit the Waxahachie bridge club at their Tuesday evening game and the Rockwall club for their Tuesday morning game. These will be scheduled at a future board meeting.

The February meeting will be Wednesday, February 7 at 10:00 AM at King of Glory Church prior to the Valley View game at 12:15 PM. Board members are encouraged to stay and play in the Valley View game following the board meeting.