

ACBL Unit 533 Minutes, Wednesday, March 7, 2018

9:00 Am, Cathedral City

Board Members Present William Stine

Sandy Hertz

Connie Swanson

Chaya Venkat

Carol Wilkinson

Judy Searle

Ken Grissinger

Also present, Bill Dani, Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by William Stine at 9:00 am at the Senior Center in Cathedral City.

MINUTES: The minutes from the February 13, 2018 meeting were accepted. Motion made by Sandy Hertz and seconded by Connie Swanson

TREASURER'S REPORT: Total in Bank Account: \$28,392, Cash Account: \$325. Asset Account (room deposit) \$609. Overall total: \$29,326.04

NEW BOARD MEMBER: Vickie Graves was voted to be a new Board Member to fill the vacancy until January 2020, motion by Sandy Hertz and seconded by Chaya Venkat

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Carol Wilkinson announced six new members, six members transferred in to the Unit 533. The total membership is 1,173.

AWARDS GAME - APRIL 8, 2018: Thirty tables are expected at Duncan Bridge Center. Chaya Venkat will present the awards and including the Gitt Award at Duncan..

WIN AWARD : The following motion motion was made by Chaya Venkat.

1. I will provide the seed money for an "Award Fund" at Unit 533 to the tune of \$10,000. My thoughts are to keep this money solely to pay for the awards, not get mixed into the general funding for other Unit business.
2. Since I am not doing this for my own greater glory, I do not want these awards named after me. I think "Bridge Lovers' Award" is a good handle, since it expresses the purpose of the award – namely, to reward people who love the game and to encourage others to learn to love it as well. I am open to suggestions for

other names for the award if there are any good ideas. I would recuse myself and be **ineligible** to win the awards myself.

3. These awards are patterned after the Gett award given at Duncan. I won that award about a year ago and the competitive adrenalin was a lot of fun. I played my heart out, as did everyone else in the running; we played far more games than we would have otherwise. But the Gett awards are only for folks playing at Duncan. **I would like to make these NEW awards available to any new or intermediate level member playing at any of the many clubs in our Unit.**

4. The awards will be given **twice a year**, during season and during off-season periods – like the Gett award.

5. **Each season, two awards will be given.** One for the player with less than 299 MPS who gets the most master points during that season, the second for the player with between 299 and 499 master points who gets the most master points.

6. The award consists of a certificate as well as **25 free passes to play at any of the venues in our Unit.** In other words, a winner can present one of these free passes at any of our clubs in lieu of table fees. The club owners / directors can then redeem the passes for their usual table fee for that game from the Unit's Award Fund. Since we are talking about 2 awards each season, four awards all together per year, it adds up to 100 free passes per year. On average, that should add up to \$1,000 per year – some of the clubs charge \$9 per game and Duncan charges \$10. Throw in some STAC games that charge \$11, and we should come to a round number of \$1000, give or take a few bucks.

7. I like the free table dues passes better than say, giving an Amazon gift card that winners can spend elsewhere. Free game passes means the money gets funneled right back into our clubs. We should get support from the various club owners and directors since we would be encouraging players to play more (I have noticed competitive spirit is a very strong driver among bridge players!) as well as play extra games after they have won to use up their free passes. The free passes would be valid for a period of one year from the date of award. The time I won the Gett award I gave away my free passes to the various partners I played with over that time, to thank them for helping me win.

8. At the expected rate of \$1,000 per year, just the seed money of \$10,000 I am willing to donate should last for a nice long term of 10 years. Sandy has expressed some interest in joining me to the level that works for him. Generous people like him can extend this time frame even further. I will do my best to solicit additional donations during my term as coordinator of the awards.

The motion was seconded by Georgia Jones and the motion passed.

Sandy Hertz volunteered to add to the support. The goal is to promote bridge with the intermediate and novice players. It was also discussed that the sessions will be Summer to Fall and Spring to Winter. A reporting system was discussed.

EDUCATION: Mick Riccio will hold evening classes this summer to teach beginning bridge. A motion was made by Sandy Hertz and seconded by Connie Swanson to support the new players at \$50.00 per student up to \$1,200.00.

533 UNIT GAMES: Games will be held March 16th in the afternoon at the following centers: Duncan, Joslyn and the Temple. Cakes will be provided at each site.

FALL SECTIONAL: The scheduled dates are November 9 - 11, 2018. Due to the poor attendance in the previous year, having the Fall Sectional is still under discussion. Various dates and locations were discussed.

DISCIPLINE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE: Chairman: Paul Gelb, Committee members: Dale Thune, Neil Stern, Lou Goldsmith and Brenda Keller.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at Cathedral City

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Jones