

## Unit 562 Board Meeting January 15 2019

Present: Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Michele DiLorenzo, Chris Dowson, Howard Einberg, Marcia Fisher, Charles Fonarow, Lee Hausner, John Ramos, Robert Shore, Carolyn Taff

Meeting opened with a thank you to Bob Shore for his leadership the past year.

Elections and position assignments were held with the following results:

President Jordan Chodorow

Vice President - Bob Shore

Membership/Secretary Lee Hausner

Electronic Coordinator and Treasurer Roger Clough (Chuck will be mentored by Roger as the succession plan for Treasurer)

Recorder Gene White

Business Manager Peter Benjamin (Chris will be mentored by Peter as the succession plan)

Education Nancy Heck

GNT Howard Einberg

Representatives to attend District Board Meeting

Peter Benjamin Roger Clough Jordan Chodorow Carolyn Taff

Alternates Lee Hausner Howard Einberg

The board welcomed new board member Chris Dowson.

Michele offered suggestions for making board meetings more productive and will work with Jordan on implementing some of her ideas.

One of the responsibilities of the board is the hosting of a sectional which can be a revenue generator for the unit. The challenge has been in finding a suitable location that will provide a cost effective venue. The district is sanctioned for a May 25-26 sectional and Peter is working on the possibility of securing the Elks Club in Culver City as a venue.

Michele offered the suggestion of seeking out Bridge Patrons who might be interested in financial support of the unit.

John Ramos reported on a new program he is introducing for newer players who play on Saturday mornings. He will teach team game strategy and scoring. During the Long Beach regional this year they will host a special team game section for players with less than 50 master points and we will encourage the students to participate at a regional tournament with the support of volunteers.

Carolyn had very positive feedback on the party despite the problem of how we acknowledged those individuals who were eligible to attend prior to the necessary cutoff. We were oversubscribed this year as we were last year and many of the newer players attended. Chris will work on the flyer for next year

and we will explore using the web site for acceptances. It was decided to give a free play to the Luries who came to the party and learned that they could not play.

It was voted to continue the party with the unit underwriting the deficit. The date will remain in November and the price may be increased to \$75.00 per person, subject to a final confirmation vote at the next meeting. Lee will get pricing from Brentwood Country Club in order to determine if we can continue to use this venue.

There was a renewed discussion regarding the Bridge News and whether the unit should continue to pay for it. Last year a motion was made to do it "one last time."

The date of the next meeting will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club.

## Board Minutes March 2019

Meeting was called to order by President Jordan Chodorow. Attending in person were Roger Clough, Peter Benjamin, Chuck Fonarow, Marcia Fisher, John Ramos, Chris Dowson, Carolyn Taff, Lee Hausner, and Bob Shore.

Attending by phone were Stephanie Young, Michele DiLorenzo, and Howard Einberg.

A committee has been working to revise the bylaws and the first order of business was to approve the new revision. Bob Shore voiced his concern that we might be moving too fast in approving the revisions as he has concerns that a small group of individuals might be able to take control of the affairs of the unit. However, he did feel that there was a urgency in changing the number of board members required to have a quorum to conduct business. A vote was called and the proposed revisions were passed 11 to 1.

Kevin Lane, who is our district 23 representative to the ACBL Board of Directors, came to the meeting to express concerns with the manner in which the ACBL board is functioning. There appear to be issues of accountability, transparency, contract review, conflict of interest in utilization of legal advisors and arbitrary application of rules of parliamentary procedure on the part of the board Chairmen. Kevin feels that it is important to have more board members who have a business background in this decision making capacity and he feels that we need to be aware of this.

Bob suggested that one course of action would be to ensure that other district representatives share Kevin's concerns and come up with remedies that can be undertaken.

Peter reported on the planned Sectional which will be held on the 25th and 26th of May. The location will be the Elks Lodge in Culver City. A deposit is required which can be refunded up to 30 days before the event and it is important that as many people as possible be encouraged to support this activity. There will be a 299ers division so that our newer players can experience the excitement of a tournament within their comfort zone and it will be well publicized in our classes.

The treasurer's report indicates a current cash balance of \$22, 724.54

The next meeting will be held April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. at 10727 Wilshire Blvd. LA, Ca.



Unit 562 Board of Directors meeting April 9, 2019

Present: Peter Benjamine, Jordon Chodorow, Michele DiLorenzo, Howard Einberg, Marcia Fisher, Chuch Fonarow, Lee Hausner, John Ramos, Carolyn Taff, Chris Dowson

Minutes from the prior meeting were accepted

There was no treasurer report since the treasurer was out of town

### Old Business

Sectional May 25/26

Peter has been able to negotiate a favorable contract with the Elks Club in Culver City. It is necessary for us to coordinate obtaining the necessary supplies.. There are 19 tables at the Barrington Bridge Club which we can use and we will check with Beverly Hills to see if we can use any of their tables. Additionally we need to see how many bidding boxes we have available. Lee Hausner will count the boxes she is storing and various board members have indicated that they would lend their personal boxes so that we will not have to rent any more supplies than is necessary.

Peter will need volunteers to help with the transport of the tables and the set up. He will see if this can be done on the Friday night prior to the tournament. If not, it will have to be done early Saturday morning.

Refreshments will be limited to coffee, tea and cookies. Howard has a coffee pot we can use.

It is important to publicize this event as it is the major fund raiser for the unit. Michele will investigate how it can be advertised via e mail as other ACBL events are. Flyers will be distributed to all the area clubs. The contract will be secured by the next meeting.

### New Business

Chris and Michele will coordinate with Marcia regarding the invitations and decorations for the unit party which will be held the 24<sup>th</sup> of November.

Peter reported that there is no longer room for engraving on one of the plaques honoring players. It was moved and seconded that a new plaque be purchased. Peter will handle this.

The next board meeting is scheduled on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club.



Minutes of the Unit #562 board meeting July 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

Present: Roger Clough, Carolyn Taft, Chuck Fornarow, Lee Hausner, Jordan Chodorow, Howard Einberg, Robert Shore

Absent: Chris Dowson, Michele DiLorenzo, Marcia Fisher, Stephanie Young, Peter Benjamine

Meeting was called to order by the president, Jordon Chodorow.

Congratulations were given to Bob Shore who is the new president of the district. The issue of continuation with the California Bridge News is on the agenda. Bob asked for a postponement of a vote on whether to continue to support Bridge News which currently costs the unit \$1800.00. He feels this is an important decision and requests a delay so that more board members can offer their opinion. Roger provided a brief history of the Bridge News which in its current state is presented digitally. The board has asked for data indicating how many hits the News is receiving but it has not been forthcoming. The board will again request this important data in order to be able to determine whether the expense of 1800 is effective use of our resources. Lee moved and it was seconded that the board delay until a future time a final decision on this issue.

Due to his increase obligations as manager of the Beverly Hills Bridge Club, John Ramos submitted his resignation from the board.

The minutes of the past meeting were approved as was the treasurer report submitted by Roger.

The unit made a profit of \$1755.46 on the recent sectional and total cash as of 6/30/19 was \$25,725.94

The unit send flowers to Adrienne to thank her for her generosity in lending us tables for the event. The board authorized a \$20.00 allowance for the purchase of a gift for John to also thank him for the contributions of the BHBC. Lee will purchase the gift.

New Business

Carolyn confirmed that the date of the annual bridge party would be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November. The board wants to continue this event and we will be firming up arrangements with Brentwood Country Club. Chris Dowson and Michele DiLorenzo have offered to work with Carolyn on creating a digital invitation with interactive features. Jordan expressed concern that the only option would be digitally and there would not be a paper version of the invitation. No decision on this matter was taken.

John Ramos will be asked to be a director and if he accepts he can suggest who he would want to work with.

The date for the next board meeting will be August 26 at 6:15 PM at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club.



West Los Angeles Unit 562 Board minutes August 27<sup>th</sup> 2019

Present: Chuck Fonarow, Jordan Chodorow, Carolyn Taft, Peter Benjamin, Roger Clough, Lee Hausner, Bob Shore, Marcia Fisher

Past minutes and the treasurers report were approved

Jordan reported that a majority of the board had voted not to pay the invoice of \$1800.00 for our continued participation in supporting the Bridge Bulletin. Bob Shore had asked the board to hold off the vote until he could become established as the new district presidents suggesting that it might be possible to have the Bulletin produced for a reduced fee. The current vote will stand but if there is a change in the fee, the board is open for reconsideration of our participation.

Howard Einberg is no longer a member of our unit as he has transferred his membership to Texas where he is spending a considerable portion of his time. He will no longer be on the unit board but has offer his help whenever he is available

#### November Unit Holiday Party

John Ramos will be contacted about directors for the event.

Regarding the necessary equipment, it is possible that the unit may purchase tables to have for future events. Current equipment is being rented. Brentwood has sufficient bidding boxes for the party.

Invitations will be sent out in October and reservations will be closed at 110 guests. Last year the party was quickly over subscribed but it was not possible to notify some guests of this situation since we did not have their contact information. This year the invitations clearly state that reservations must be confirmed before arriving at the event so contact information with a reservation is mandatory.

The Volunteer of the Year committee of Jordan, Carol and Marcia will present candidates to the board for a final selection.

Lee, Marcia and Carolyn will be meeting with the beverage manager at Brentwood to firm up the menu and details for the party.

Peter will apply for sanctions for the Sectional Tournament which will be held Memorial Day weekend, the 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.

The next board meeting will be October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Minutes of the Unit 562 Board meeting of November 3,, 2019

Present:, Jordon Chodorow, Lee Hausner, Chuck Fonarow, Bob Shore, Stephanie Young, Peter Benjamin, Carolyn Taff, Roger Clough, Marcia Fisher

As a result of Actions taken following the Boards decision not to continue to support the SCBN the following motions were passed by the board

1. Bob Shore will be censured for his violations of his duties to Unit 562 and its members as a result of the Findings of Fact and Resolutions (see attached)
2. ACBL rank changes of unit 562 members will be acknowledged in the following manner:

Listing on the Unit 562 Website

Announcement of the rank change at the holiday party

Any unit member with an ACBL rank change will contact the Board to request a free play at a club within the Unit. One free play per calendar year

3. The Board affirmatively re-ratifies its decision not to pay the 2019 invoice of SCBN. Conditions which may result in reconsideration of this position are listed on the attached memo

Final arrangements for the party were discussed.

Lee will get the decorations to the club. Peter will get sanctions and talk to Peter Knee regarding additional supplies, Lee and Jordan will be at the reception table..

The next meeting will be January 7<sup>th</sup> at Jordan Chodorow's office.



## **FINDINGS OF FACT AND RESOLUTIONS**

WHEREAS, Bob Shore, in his roles as District President (including through his Executive Committee) and as the Managing Editor of the Southern California Bridge News ("SCBN"), has taken the following actions:

- 1.) Prohibited the West Los Angeles Unit ("Unit 562") from publishing a column in the SCBN;
- 2.) Prohibited Unit 562 from publishing its minutes in the SCBN;
- 3.) Prevented the SCBN from publishing the names of Unit 562 members with ACBL rank changes;
- 4.) Published the names of Unit 562 Board members with the suggestion that Unit members confront Board members about the Board's decision not to pay the SCBN invoice; and
- 5.) Used his platform to suggest that Unit 562 members change their registration to another unit because of the Board's decision; and

WHEREAS, one or more other units within District 23 have declined to pay the SCBN invoice in the past, including during Bob Shore's term as Vice President, without similar actions being taken or proposed against them; and

WHEREAS, Action #3 above is a particularly petty and vindictive action that punishes rather than rewards Unit members for their achievements; and

WHEREAS, Action #4 above may have caused or may tend in the future to cause unpleasant and unnecessary confrontations, including ones in which Board members may feel physically threatened; and

WHEREAS, Action #5 above threatens Unit 562's membership stipend from ACBL and/or the amount thereof, thereby jeopardizing the financial well-being of Unit 562;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Directors of West Los Angeles Bridge Unit 562 hereby makes the following findings of facts and resolutions:

- 1.) Bob Shore has a clear and continuing conflict of interest between his position as President of District 23 and his position as a member of this Board of Directors; and
- 2.) This conflict of interest has caused Bob Shore to take actions contrary to the best interests of Unit 562 and its members, in violation of his duties as a member of this Board; and
- 3.) This conflict of interest makes it foreseeable that Bob Shore may take further actions contrary to the best interests of Unit 562 and its members, in violation of his duties as a member of this Board; and
- 4.) It is hereby resolved that Bob Shore is censured in the strongest possible terms for his violations of his duties to Unit 562 and its members.

**MOTION REGARDING WEST LOS ANGELES UNIT 562 MEMBERS WITH ACBL RANK CHANGES**

WHEREAS, Bob Shore, as Managing Editor of the Southern California Bridge News (the "SCBN"), has (including through his Executive Committee) prevented the SCBN from publishing the names of Unit 562 members with ACBL rank changes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Unit 562 wishes to respond with grace and kindness and to recognize and reward its constituents for their achievements; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to initiate friendly contact between its constituents and itself;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1.) As soon as reasonably practical, the names of Unit 562 members with rank changes (beginning in 2019) shall be listed on the Unit 562 website; and

2.) Unit 562 members with ACBL rank changes in any calendar year shall be announced at that year's holiday party; and

3.) As soon as reasonably practical, Unit 562 shall provide a mechanism for any Unit member with an ACBL rank change (beginning in 2019) to make contact with the Board to request a free play at a club within the Unit (up to a maximum of one free play per member per calendar year).



### **MOTION REGARDING PAYMENT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRIDGE NEWS INVOICES**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Unit 562 (the "Board") has voted decisively not to pay the 2019 invoice for the Southern California Bridge News (the "SCBN") or any portion thereof; and

WHEREAS, discussion of such invoices has consumed much of the Board's time and energy in recent years and the Board wishes not to rehash such discussions for a significant period of time; and

WHEREAS, the Board has not received the detailed information about the SCBN that might allow it to make an informed decision to pay any SCBN invoice in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to receive such information not only through 2019 but for at least two full calendar years thereafter, so that data may be analyzed on an ongoing basis over time; and

WHEREAS, the SCBN continues, under Managing Editor Bob Shore, to single out Unit 562 for negative treatment, as determined by the Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1.) Though not required to do so, the Board hereby affirmatively re-ratifies its decision not to pay the 2019 invoice or any portion thereof; and

2.) The Board shall not pay, nor take up consideration of payment of, any invoices (or portions thereof) relating to the SCBN or similar or successor publication until 2022, and thereafter in no event until the following conditions are satisfied:

a.) The Board has received, to its satisfaction, information regarding the SCBN, for as many months and years as possible, and to the extent possible by article as well as by issue, including but not limited to: total hits and views; unique hits and views; views from within and without the Unit; views from within and without the District; users' locations; the sites users link from/to; return rate; advertising and/or subscription revenue; and renewal and satisfaction rates; and

b.) District 23 has reviewed such information, given serious thought to ceasing or suspending publication of the SCBN, and carefully considered alternatives thereto;

c.) the Board has then had an opportunity to request and process any additional information it desires; and

d.) the Board has received an explanation it finds satisfactory as to the reasons for the District's failure to have made such information available to the Board previously; and

e.) the SCBN has, for a period of not less than twenty-four (24) consecutive calendar months, not singled out Unit 562 for negative treatment, as determined by the Board.