

Minutes of ALACBU Board Meeting of October 16, 2016

In attendance: Unit 551 (Tom Lill, Penny Barbieri), Unit 553 (Adam Barron), Unit 557 (Diane Sachs, Betty Jackson), Unit 559 (Peter Szecsi, John Jones), Unit 562 (Secretary Robert Shore, Peter Benjamin, Howard Einberg, Candy Scott). President Mike Marcucci, Vice President Bill Schreiber, Treasurer Joe Viola, District Director Kevin Lane, Board of Governors alternate Robert Kent, Tournament Chair Stan Holzberg.

Units not present: 556, 561, 564, 568.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Marcucci at 1:13 p.m. The meeting was held at the home of Paula Brand. The Board thanks Ms. Brand for her hospitality. The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

President Mike Marcucci reported that a District organizational chart can now be found on the District Web site.

District Director Kevin Lane reported his understanding that all of the charity grants allocated to the District for the year have been distributed. If anyone has contrary information, he requested to be informed to that effect. In addition, there is some interest at the ACBL Board of Directors in changing the governance structure of the ACBL Educational Foundation, which currently has approximately \$900,000. The Educational Foundation funds programs such as Bridge in a Day. Trustees of the Educational Foundation are currently selected by the ACBL Board of Directors. There is interest on the Board in making governance of the Foundation independent of ACBL.

Treasurer Joe Viola distributed financial reports for ALACBU and for the Scholarship Foundation. Joe asks that Units make a voluntary contribution to fund publication of the *Southern California Bridge News*. Thanks to a \$13,500 contribution from the ACBL Charity Foundation, the Scholarship Foundation now has a balance in excess of \$24,000. The District realized a profit of approximately \$6,000 on its regionals in 2016. Almost all events for the July 2017 tournament have been named. Joe evaluates the District's finances as acceptable, but the District does not have much in the way of reserves to weather a significant adverse financial event.

Candy Scott gave the Corresponding Secretary's report. She has sent thank you notes on behalf of the District to those who work to make our tournaments a success, and notes of congratulations to new Life Masters, to Grand and Platinum Life Masters who reach 5,000 point milestones, and to our national champion Flight B Grand National Teams entry. Candy inquires whether the District would like to host a joint game with the American Bridge Association in odd numbered years (with ABA accepting this duty in even numbered years). Games named in honor of Pat Banks have been scheduled for the February and July 2017 regionals.

Recorder Gene White reports that he has received two Player Memos, resulting in one referral.

Disciplinary Chair Bob Shore reports that a disciplinary hearing has been scheduled for November 12, 2016.

Candy Scott gave the Membership Chair's report. She reports that ACBL has assigned some zip codes to incorrect Units within our District, resulting in some members being assigned to geographically inappropriate units. She has been working to clean up these errors, reporting errors and proposed corrections to Unit Representatives to bring back to their Unit Boards for final approval. In addition, Candy is continuing her efforts to obtain reconsideration of the ACBL Board's recent decision to substantially increase the sanction fees charged for Unit games. Finally, she has been encouraging people to play the North American Pairs.

John Jones moved to authorize the District to subsidize each flight's entry in Grand National Teams in the amount of \$1000. After discussion that included the advisability and feasibility of means-testing for subsidies and an endorsement of the idea of fund-raising for this purpose, the motion passed.

Bob Kent reported on behalf of the Bylaws Committee. An issue being considered is whether to coordinate Unit and District Bylaws. Bob hopes for action at the February meeting. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair of the ACBL Board of Governors will occur at the Fall Nationals.

The Glendale Sectional is considering changing dates.

Betty Jackson reports that the District has held and participated in STACs, with the next one scheduled for November 2016.

Peter Szecsi reported on behalf of the Scholarship Committee. Seven scholarships have been renewed and four new candidates have applied. The Scholarship Committee expresses its gratitude for the Charity Foundation's contribution of \$13,500. The Board would like successful candidates to submit photographs of themselves as part of the application process.

John Jones reported on behalf of the Education Committee. Participation in bridge at local colleges and universities has declined sharply. Caltech has one student, as does UCLA. USC and Claremont have no known bridge players. Caltech probably will not send a team to the next collegiate championship. His high school's bridge club has low attendance, resulting in fewer scholarship applicants. Lucy Zhang is graduating and is submitting an application to be Queen of Bridge. Lucy and Sophia Chang will probably be the number 2 women's pair for the United States at the next world championship's for their age bracket. The Scholastic Game probably will not be held this year.

Peter Benjamin reported as Tournament Manager. The Long Beach Regional earned a profit of approximately \$10,600. We also received good feedback from out-of-state players. Although there were 60 last-minute hotel cancellations, the hotel waived the penalty. We have signed contracts to hold regionals in Long Beach through 2019. Looking ahead to the February 2017 tournament, Billy Miller, through his clients, has raised \$1800 to be used for purchasing new cards and new boards. We are looking at supply options. Stanchions have been repaired. Billy Miller also has been approaching pros on our behalf, hoping to increase attendance at our February tournament. We are hoping for a financial break-even. We are in talks with the Glendale Hilton for an October tournament. We were unable to locate suitable space for a year-end tournament. Significant sound volume from nearby bands would render available space unusable for bridge tournaments.

Candy Scott reported on proposed entertainment at the next tournament. John Jones will host the Not-So-Newlywed Game. John will also hold a Master Solvers Live panel at the Long Beach Regional, along with Leo Bell, Mitch Dunitz, and others. There will be logic games and other word puzzles on a stand-alone page separate from the *Daily Bulletin*.

Stan Holzberg reported that he is endeavoring to spread the dates of District Sectionals in 2017.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will occur at the February regional.