

APPROVED Minutes
American Contract Bridge League
Georgia Unit 114, Inc.
August 8, 2015

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Ken Parker called the meeting to order at 6:00pm on August 8, 2015 at the Macon Duplicate Bridge Club, Macon, Georgia.

Board members and guests present were Ken Parker, David Newcomer, Joan Braender, Ann Hedden (proxy for John West), Cheryl Bedgood, Emory Whitaker (proxy for Len Perkins), Mary Ann Bateman (guest), John Vencill, Tom Wight, Donna Parker, Bob Pearson, Lucille Torre, and Mike Kovacich.

Ken began by introducing Mike Kovacich who had asked for the opportunity to present his reasons as to why he was our best choice among the candidates running for District Director. The members of Unit 114 will receive an email ballot within the next 60 days. Mike encouraged all board the members to vote. Mike left after addressing the board for several minutes.

Our delightful supper was planned by Lucille Torre and was provided by Kathy Patras, a member of the Macon Duplicate Bridge Club. We appreciate the food being served promptly and well-prepared.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved with a correction to Barbanel Borah's name.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Since mentoring expenses are so significant in the financial reports, Ken provided a summary of our "May is for Mentoring" program and then asked David to continue with his treasurer's report.

David Newcomer discussed the Income Statement for the 7 months ending 7/31/2015. David explained that the ACBL returns \$3.90 per member to Unit 114 from the annual membership dues.

David explained we will not have the additional expense of Atlanta's mentoring next year, but the expense of our month of May mentoring came as a surprise. Atlanta's amount was \$2,166 and with 1/3 the membership, one would assume Unit 114 would be somewhere around \$1,000, but the actual cost was \$3,732. While we are very

pleased with participation, expenses must be cut in order to continue the program next year. Ann Hedden made a motion to continue the free play of the mentor when playing with the mentee, but to discontinue the second free play for the mentor. Ken called for approval and it was unanimous.

The financial reports were approved as presented.

Ken reminded all that he and Treasurer David Newcomer had been selected to represent Unit 114 during the negotiations to find an equitable division of assets between Unit 114 and the new Unit 253. The following outlines the final agreement between the units:

As of 3/31/15, Unit 114 had approximately \$258,000 in its treasury. Of this amount, there was approximately \$120,000 in operating funds and approximately \$138,000 in National's money.

The operating funds were divided based on prorated membership. Unit 253 had approximately 2/3 of the membership and Unit 114 had the remaining 1/3, so Unit 114 retained approximately \$40,000 of the \$120,000.

The major point of contention was with National's money. Unit 253 wanted it all, we wanted 1/3. A compromise was agreed to wherein we got one-half of 1/3 of the Nationals money, about \$22,000.

After all was said and done, we sent a check to Unit 253 in the amount of \$195,634 on 7/15/15. This left us with approximately \$62,366.00 to begin our "new and improved" Unit 114.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken explained that John West was unable to attend this meeting because of health issues. We want to keep John West in our thoughts and prayers as he goes through chemotherapy. We wish him our best.

Ken congratulated board member John Vencill on his becoming the unit's most recent Life Master.

Ken reported that since our last board meeting the Executive Committee has approved the appointment of Bob Pearson to fill the vacant Vice President position. The EC also approved the appointment of Len Perkins to fill the South area rep position vacated by Bob Pearson. Both appointments will last until mid-January at the Annual General Meeting.

Ken appointed Tom Wight to fill the Past President officer position, filling Nicolas Hammond's vacancy caused by the creation of Unit 253. This appointment, which was approved by the board, will last until the Annual General Meeting in early 2016.

Ken advised the board that Northeast Area Representative Ron Torre has decided to affiliate himself with the new Unit 253. We thank Ron for all of his hard work while in Unit 114. Ken explained that he decided not to fill this position at this time.

Conyers Sectional, October 16-18, 2015

Ken reminded everyone that the Conyers Sectional is a "unit sectional" which means it is planned and run by Unit 114. A local bridge organization is not involved and Unit 114 accepts the entire financial burden – whether it generates a profit or loss.

The chairperson for the Conyers Sectional has been Dan Osburn for the past several years. Unfortunately, Dan became a member of Unit 253 but did agree to chair our 2015 Conyers tournament. Lucille Torre has agreed to chair the event in 2016.

In the Conyers' meeting handouts, it was apparent that a lot of work that has been done in preparation for a successful tournament. There was a list of 23 tasks that had to be completed. Eleven items had already been completed by June 17, 2015. The Tournament Expense Projections which were based on the 2014 table counts showed a small profit of \$275.20 if we maintain the entry fee of \$10 or we could stand to make a much larger profit of \$843.20 if we increased the entry fee by \$1.00. A comment was made about a student rate, but no decision was made. A future \$1 increase in entry fees is contemplated if neighboring units increase their entry fees.

New Unit 114 Website

Our new web site is aclblunit114.org. We have received many compliments from some of the over 10,000 website visitors since the site's late-April launch. Bob Pearson was commended for his hard work on this project. A request was made to have future Unit 114 Regional tournaments publicized at the website. Ann pointed out an inconsistency in the listing of past president's dates of service on the site and Ken said he would look into it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bylaws

Donna Parker reported that she has made all of the changes approved at the last AGM meeting and has removed any mention of Atlanta and the DBAA. These changes are now reflected in the bylaws appearing at the unit website.

Elections Committee

Donna Parker reported that elections of area representatives, if necessary, will be held at the January tournament in Macon. All area representatives will serve for a two-year period. The unit will be announcing soon that we are accepting self-nominations for area representative positions. Ann Hedden asked if it would be better to stagger the area rep elections. Ken stated that this not needed because the vast majority of candidates run unopposed and stay with the unit board for several two-year terms.

Donna reported that she is turning over to Bob Pearson the Elections Committee leadership role because, as a member of the Nominating Committee, the bylaws mandate that members of the Nominating Committee members may not also serve on the Elections Committee.

Membership Committee

There were 1,140 members in Unit 114 as of the 4/01/15 after the split with Atlanta. Ann reported that since then our membership has grown to 1,175. The Macon Duplicate Bridge Club was cited as being responsible for many of the new members.

OLD BUSINESS

Unit 114 Facebook Page

There have been 220 “following” our Facebook posts, higher than any other ACBL unit’s count of Facebook followers. However, all of the information included on the Facebook page is duplicated on the new Unit 114 web site. After some discussion, Ken was asked what he wanted to do. Ken replied that he did not see the need in maintaining two sites and he preferred to close down the Facebook page. The consensus was to close it down and just keep the web site.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

Tom Wight is the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. Donna Parker and Emory Whitaker comprise the rest of the committee. The nominating committee must present their recommended slate of officers at our October 17th board meeting in Conyers. The slate of officers will become final 30 days prior to the Annual General Membership meeting. Information about the slate of officers and filing deadline must appear in the District 7's newsletter.

2016 Sportsperson of the Year (SPOTY)

Donna Parker is the chairperson for the SPOTY committee with Emory Whitaker and Tom Wight being the remaining members. Donna will initiate timely notices to the unit's clubs. Her committee will present at most 3 candidates to be voted on at the Conyers board meeting on 10/17/2015. If timing permits, there should be a mention of our needing nominations in the District 7 newsletter.

Unit Trophies and Plaques

Decisions were made regarding the make up and display of 4 very significant plaques:

HALL OF FAME – Existing plaque, leave as-is. There is space for an additional 13 names with 11 names already on it.

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR – Will create a new plaque from an old plaque. There is space for 20 names. Plates will be made for the 15 past SPOTY recipients who are non-Atlantans.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – This is an existing plaque. There is space for 22 additional recipient names. Ken explained that the plaque will initially be hung at the Eatonton club because Barbanel Borah was the first to be cited for this award.

GOODWILL COMMITTEE – This is a brand new plaque. It shall have space for 24 names. When Ken has the plaque made, the last 21 non-Atlanta Goodwill members will have name plates.

As a general policy, plaques will be hung at the recipient's home playing site until the next recipient is added to the plaque. If the plaque cannot be hung at such a playing

site, it will be hung at the Macon Bridge Club instead. Macon has agreed to display Unit 114 plaques.

Mileage Reimbursement Policy

Ken explained that there have been several times where board members have made lengthy drives in order to complete board business which was not regular board meetings. Ken suggested a reimbursement policy of \$0.30 per mile, retroactive to January 1, 2015. Lucille Torre suggested that decisions be made on a case by case basis. Ann Hedden suggested that the Executive Committee make the decision as to need and amount. The consensus was to allow the Executive Committee to decide mileage reimbursement requests.

Legal Name

Tom Wight handed out papers showing that Unit 114 was not using the correct legal name and should change all legal documents, including at the top of financial statements, by-laws, minutes, etc., to reflect the new name. The official name is: "American Contract Bridge League, Georgia Unit 114, Inc." Also, Ken thanked Tom for his work in preparing the 2014 Federal Income Tax return.

Unit 114 Name Badges

As there have been multiple changes within Unit 114's board, Cheryl asked that when we order new badges, we use a different format and use "Unit 114 Board Member" instead of the board position held. The board agreed to upgrade the quality of our name badges in the future. New badges will be ordered in late-January 2016.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Conyers, Saturday, October 17, 2015 (SPOTY Vote & Nominating Committee)

Macon, Saturday, January 23, 2016 (Annual General Meeting) (Goodwill Vote)

Gainesville, Saturday, April 2, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.