

**Minutes  
Unit 114 Board Meeting  
17 January 2015**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

President Ken Parker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Henry Tift Bridge Center Annex on 1070 Southshore Place in Macon, Georgia.

Board members and guests present were Ken Parker, David Newcomer, Helen Browdy (proxy for Josie Mitchell) , Becky Butler, Bob Jones, Mike Kovacich, Roz Howell, John Vencill, Bob Pearson , Marty Nathan, Betty Myers, Dick Myers, Larry Rich, Donna Parker, Lucille Torre, Ron Torre, Dana Osburn, Dan Osburn, Rebecca Lee, Nicolas Hammond, Ann Hedden, and Cheryl Bedgood.

Ken thanked Becky Butler for arranging dinner, catered by Carrabbas. He also extended thanks to Tom Wight for the use and set up of our meeting room.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Roz Howell resigned as Unit Secretary on January 7, 2015. The unit thanks Roz for her efforts of the past year. Per the unit's by-laws, without objection, Ken appointed Cheryl Bedgood to finish the remainder of Roz's term in office. Cheryl's appointment runs until the Annual General Membership meeting in early 2016. Another of Cheryl's duties will be to handle the website liaison with Webmaster, Larry Rich.

The previous minutes were approved as written and distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

John Erkkila and his family are moving to Goodyear, Arizona, and effective January 13, 2015, John resigned as Unit Treasurer. The unit thanks John for his efforts of the past year.

Without objection, Ken appointed David Newcomer to finish the remainder of John's term in office (which is until the 2016 AGM meeting). David's credentials include an MBA from Harvard Business School.

John worked with David to make this transition. John created the Treasurer's report and a copy is attached to these minutes.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

A copy of the Final 2014 NABC Financial Statement was made available to the board and will be made a part of the Unit 114 records.

**Annual Report of Unit's Finances**

As required by Unit 114's by-laws, Ken advised that the Executive Committee will conduct this review after today's meeting. The review will comprise of a comparison of the 12/31/2014 financial statement to actual account balances.

### **Investment Update**

The unit's investment policy was approved at the last board meeting. Upon further investigation of the advertised rates of around 1% interest, it was learned that only individuals are given this rate. The best CD rate available to a corporation was .2%. Capital One 360 offered .4% interest to organizations. As this was the better rate, \$200,000 of the unit's money was transferred to the Capital One 360 savings account.

Open discussion asked members to research better rates. **It was suggested that ACBL should be contacted about their recommendation for Unit investment program(s).**

(Note: blue = policy/procedure decision, green = follow-up needed)

### **2015 Sportsperson of the Year**

Right after the 11/10/14 board meeting, Ken explained that he recognized the board's oversight in not naming the SPOTY Runner-up. Evelyn Gilliard had the second highest number of votes. Ken contacted her and notified her of her runner-up status and the award of free plays at a 2015 unit sectional of her choice.

Unfortunately, a couple of members of the Goodwill and SPOTY Committee criticized Ken's correction of the oversight without explicit board approval. As a consequence of this controversy caused by her committee members, committee chairperson, Debbie Wagner, resigned her area rep position on this board. Roz Howell and Ina Parry resigned from the Goodwill and SPOTY Committee in further protest. Roz later reconsidered her resignation and asked to rejoin the committee.

Dana Osborn accepted the assignment of replacing Debbie Wagner as Chairperson of the unit's Goodwill and SPOTY Committee. Dana is a former District 7 Goodwill Committee award recipient.

Debbie Wagner's resignation created an area rep vacancy on this board. Ron Torre has agreed to serve in this vacated area rep's position. However, Ron's appointment lasts only until the annual general membership meeting next month. The second year of Debbie's term will be filled through the election process.

### **Goodwill Free Plays**

Ken reported that it was discovered that the unit had a Goodwill free play policy. From the minutes of the January 19, 2008 unit board meeting, Bob Heller had proposed the following motion: "Each newly elected Unit Goodwill member gets 4 free plays at Gatlinburg". The 1/19/2008 minutes go on to say "Barbara Heller

had suggested an amendment that the previous winners (from the last 3 years) also receive 4 free plays. The amendment was accepted. The motion was approved. “

Former treasurer John Erkkila had been asked to review the unit’s checkbook dating back to 2005 and located just 3 Goodwill winners who received their free plays and this was done in 2009.

There are 33 other Goodwill winners who did not receive their 4 free plays. Ken has a list of these people. As some people are now requesting their free plays, the question is whether we should pay 33 members (at 4 plays at \$11, totaling \$1,452) or 36 members (at 4 plays at \$11, totaling \$1,584)? **The board decided to pay the 36 members including the 3 new members who will be selected today. The board also decided that, going forward, newly confirmed Goodwill Committee appointees will only receive their free plays if they attend the Goodwill Committee banquet held to honor them.**

### **Mentoring Programs for Areas outside of Atlanta**

In the last board meeting, we approved funding a mentoring program for Metro Atlanta. We also approved funding a similar mentoring program for the other 4 areas of the unit.

Ken reported that the program for the other areas is now well-defined. The following area coordinators have now been appointed:

Ron Torre for North Central and overseer of the program  
John Vencill for Northeast  
Michelle Rose for Northwest  
Cheryl Bedgood for South

**Club managers will be contacted in March with details with mentoring to occur in May.** Total cost should be less than 1/3 of the Metro Atlanta cost.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **2015 Goodwill**

Dana Osburn presented the four people nominated for consideration for the 2015 Goodwill Committee: Janice Ripley, Shirley Urso, Evelyn Gilliard, and Becky Butler. After the board voted to select 3 (as is allowed by District 7), Dana announced that the three winners are Shirley Urso, Evelyn Gilliard, and Becky Butler.

### **Finance and Investment Oversight**

There is no report as the committee has not met.

### **Tournaments**

Bob Pearson presented the report on tournaments that had been planned to occur during the 2015 year. His report also informed the board of the ACBL's \$50/\$100 "parking tickets" (fines) for sanction requests which did not meet the 12-month deadline for requesting a sanction request. **It was decided that as the delinquent requesters caused the fines, then they should be the ones to pay for the fines.**

### **Representation Review Committee**

Dick Myers reported that the majority of his committee concluded there should be a total of 15 area representatives, 10 from Metro Atlanta and 5 from non-Atlanta. A final vote on this was tabled until a final decision is made by the ACBL concerning the request of Atlanta to secede from Unit 114.

### **Elections**

Donna Parker reported that there were 7 candidates for 4 Metro Atlanta area representative positions. A Metro Atlanta election will be held and will conclude on Saturday, February 7, 2015. There has been an election notice filed for the 1-year board vacancy in the Northeast Area. Nominations for Northeast area representative will remain open through February 12, 2015. and the election will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 in Gainesville.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **By-laws Signatures Required**

Ken explained that Mike Kovacich has advised the board that the by-laws amendments approved by the board on October 11, 2014 needed the signatures of a minimum of seven voting members of the Board in accordance with Article 12, Section B. The page of board approved amendments was passed around the room and was signed by 9 members in keeping with the requirement that the signatures be obtained not less than the ten days in advance of the annual meeting. Ken asked that the document be entered into the official records of the board. Those who signed were Ken Parker, David Newcomer, Donna Parker, Mike Kovacich, Becky Butler, Rosalind Howell, Lucille Torre, and Nicolas Hammond. All signatures were dated January 17, 2015.

#### **Youth Protection Guidelines**

Ken reported that Patty Tucker has concerns over several of the guidelines which would impact several of the things that Atlanta Junior Bridge does. Concerns over the unit's liability were expressed should the unit decide not to follow the ACBL's Youth Protection Guidelines. The possibility of out adjusting guidelines to reflect our situation was suggested. **Bob agreed to talk with Patty to get specifics of her practices to protect youths in Atlanta Junior Bridge. Ken said he would contact the ACBL to ascertain what action they expect at the unit level.**

#### **Bob Jones tabled item from 7/2 meeting**

This item was skipped pending the outcome of the ACBL Youth Protection Plan.

### **Atlanta Petition Update**

Marty said that 51.5% of the total unit membership had signed the petition. ACBL is currently validating the signatures. He also stated that straw polls at the recent D7 meeting favored Atlanta's becoming a separate unit.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Tournament Seed Money**

Bob Jones wanted to make a motion calling for seed money for tournaments from outside Unit 114 to be decided on a case by case basis. Nicholas said that a resolution had already been passed that there was to be no subdivision in Unit 114 treasury and that allocations could only be made by the board.

#### **Board Member Attendance Proposal**

Ron Torre wanted to make a motion that only one board meeting could be missed. This item was tabled until there was a final decision about the secession of Atlanta.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.