

January 12, 2021 East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held virtually. Ten directors were present: Jo Ellen Wade, Linda Harrison, Rathnam, Carol Kinsey, Susan Ford, John Hamilton, Phyllis Alvarez, Sandy O'Bannon, Mary Ramsey and Tom Spradlin were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM. Rathnam thanked the Board for their work in 2020 and during the pandemic and expressed thanks that none of us has been infected.

With one modification, the Board approved the minutes for the November 20, 2020 meeting, which had been circulated previously. Also, the Board approved the treasurer's reports for November and December. The latter reflected the purchase of 18 Bridgemates and server from the Gun Barrel Club. We also received some teaching materials, bid boxes, and cards. All these items are in Phyllis's possession, and she will move the Bridgemates and server to Tyler when we resume play there.

John reported that all awards have been ordered and will be available when we resume unit games. Phyllis will pick these up in Grand Saline. Rathnam reported that a meeting in Tyler in February will decide the opening date of the Senior Citizens Center, perhaps in March.

Jo Ellen reported there are 24 unit championship games allocated per ACBL annually. Twelve games will be assigned to the unit. Extra available sessions will be allocated to the club level. Currently there are 8 clubs participating. The largest clubs will be given priority. The assignments will be completed as the year progresses.

Phyllis reported that she has submitted the names of Charles Ford and Jimmy Wright as candidates to participate in the ACBL Educator Quick Start Program. Charles and Jimmy will work directly with the District on this.

Carol reported that we are getting about 70 views of the Unit 225 website per week. She has also posted a link to the District 16 page. Carol has posted there a few times, and says it is a good site.

Sandy reported that our check to the city of Tyler for the May 2019 unit game was never cashed, but the city says our account is paid in full. Sandy will add that check back to our account.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda January 2021

Call to order

Roll Call

November minutes sent previously via email

December Treasurer's Report and current Status

Old Business and add ons

- **Awards Life master and above status** JH
- **Unit Game Allocation** JEW
- **Unit Games 2021 status** SVR
- **Educator Quick Start Program** PA
- **Gun Barrel City Bridge mates etc** SO'B
- **D16 Facebook Page** CK

Other New Business

ALL

Adjourn

**February 11, 2021 East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes**

This meeting was held virtually. Nine directors were present: Jo Ellen Wade, Linda Harrison, Rathnam, Carol Kinsey, Susan Ford, Phyllis Alvarez, Sandy O'Bannon, Mary Ramsey and Tom Spradlin.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM, and the floor was given to Paul Cuneo, a Director of District 16, who attended to share news from the district. He reported that 2020 was a good year financially for the ACBL, with more than 60000 members playing online. He asked us to encourage people to play online and mentioned that in-person tournaments through April have been cancelled, and there may be more cancellations to come. Paul commented that, although there is a lot of discussion about online cheating, fewer than 50 cases are being prosecuted. Most cheating occurs when there are two playing from the same residence and is at low levels of play. Finally, the District 16 Board has voted to lower the number of directors to 13, and the Board of Governors is being reduced from 5 to 3. In response to a question whether the masterpoint awards have been lowered for online play, Paul mentioned that the awards are lower because only 18 boards are played, but this is compensated for by the increased number of players in the game. When asked about our Tournament of Roses in July, Paul commented that, if we don't get news by the end of March, he believes the tournament is unlikely to be held.

We turned to the agenda for the meeting. Minutes from the January meeting were approved with two changes, and the Treasurer's Report was approved. Phyllis has awards for five persons, and the receipts for their purchase, and will hold them until we learn when the Tyler Senior Citizens Center will open. Even though it is uncertain when we will be able to present these, along with the awards for the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney awards, Carol will post the winners on the website and we will notify the awardees by letter. The directors also agreed that it is too early to make decisions about unit game allocations. It was also announced that the March 15 presentation for the District 16 educational effort would be made by Jonathan Ernest (later changed by email to Charles Ford).

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda February 2021

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. January minutes (sent previously via email)** All
- IV. Awards Life master and above status** JH
- V. Plan for Mini McKinney Awards** JH
- VI. Plan for Ace of Clubs Awards** JH
- VII. Unit Game Allocation** JE
- VIII. Unit Games 2021 status** JE
- IX. Educator Quick Start Program** PA
- X. D16 Facebook Page** CK
- XI. D16 ACBL Update** PC
- XII. Other New Business**
- XIII. Adjourn**

March 30, 2021 East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held virtually. Nine directors were present: Jo Ellen Wade, Linda Harrison, Rathnam, Carol Kinsey, Susan Ford, Phyllis Alvarez, Sandy O'Bannon, Mary Ramsey and Tom Spradlin.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved, as was the Treasurer's Report for February. It was reported that the Senior Citizens Center in Tyler will probably open in May for Meals on Wheels, but for other activities it will probably not open until June. Jo Ellen understands that it will probably be open for unit games in June, since we lease the center for that purpose, but perhaps not for club games. Sandy O'Bannon suggested members call the city and urge them to open the facility. Linda Harrison mentioned that, as she understands, unit games prior to August must be approved by ACBL, Jo Ellen will investigate this requirement. The directors discussed the idea of delaying all awards until the annual meeting in August, and agreed that the awards presentation would need to be streamlined in order to keep the overall meeting brief.

After some discussion, the directors decided to have Zoom meetings, at least for the time being, only every two months, meaning the next meeting will be in May. We can call a special meeting if necessary. Zoom meetings allow for the inclusion of folks from Texarkana, if necessary, but they need to be scheduled carefully in order not to conflict with games at the clubs that are open.

Rathnam reviewed the Board as currently constituted. In August we need to re-elect Carol and John and Mary, and then we will need two new members. Sandy O'Bannon will chair a Nominating Committee, and Charles Ford and Sandy Hilliard have agreed to help. When the Board has its new members, we might decide to re-assign jobs.

In miscellaneous matters, it was reported that the Charles Ford lesson on New Minor Forcing went well, with over 100 observing, though the first 15 minutes were not recorded. The ACBL plans new games and training for players with less than 20 masterpoints. Some members have reported problems trying to play with online clubs, but Mary reported she has had good luck with the BAND club. The Board has no requirements for masks, etc., that decision is left to the open clubs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda March / April 2021

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. February minutes (sent previously via email)** **All**
- IV. Treasurer's report** **S'O**
- V. Plan for Mini McKinney / Ace Of Clubs & Awards** **JH & ALL**
- VI. Plan for Ace of Clubs Awards** **JH**
- VII. Unit Game Allocation** **JH**
- VIII. Unit Games 2021 status** **JE**
- IX. Educator Quick Start Program For Under 500 pts.** **PA**
- X. Board Meetings Zoom** **ALL**
- XI. Board Of Directors Nominating Committee** **SVR**
- XII. Other New Business** **ALL**
- XIII. Adjourn**

June 8, 2021 East Texas Bridge Association

Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held virtually. Eight directors were present: Jo Ellen Wade, Rathnam, Carol Kinsey, Susan Ford, Phyllis Alvarez, Sandy O'Bannon, Mary Ramsey and Tom Spradlin.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with a minor correction, as were the Treasurer's Reports for March, April, and May.

The Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs Awards for 2020 have been posted on the website, but we will present these awards personally if we get to hold the August meeting at the Senior Citizens Center in August. Also, we will serve lunch at that meeting if the Center permits it.

Rathnam reported that he spoke with the administration of the Senior Citizens Center, they are currently open for Meals on Wheels and nothing else. They are trying to hire a new director of the center, and personnel need to be trained before the center can re-open to us. July is questionable, they said, but August should be OK. We will need to sign a new contract every year for the unit games and pay a fee for the games and the storage. Rathnam and Sandy will attempt to meet with city officials about this.

Sandy O'Bannon met with Charles Ford and Sandy Hilliard and developed a list of candidates for the Board. Ginny Jones and Jo Booth have agreed to serve if elected. We must send a letter to the clubs listing the nominees, and the letter needs to be sent to the clubs and posted 30 days before the meeting. The Secretary will take care of this. Rathnam is looking for input from the Board suggesting jobs for the new members.

Sandy O'Bannon mentioned the Bridge Bulletin article on future ACBL tournaments. This article lists 5 requirements for such tournaments. Linda Harrison has requested the cancellation of her NLM tournament.

Four charity games need to be assigned, two by ACBL and two by us. The Christmas Charity Game has been assigned to Sandy's Kids, and the Board agreed to assign the other to Meals on Wheels. Jo Ellen Wade reported that she has 11 unit championship games to assign, assuming the unit game begins in August. This is a complicated process, and Jo Ellen agreed to write a description of it for the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda June/ July 2021

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

III. March minutes (sent previously via email) All

IV. Treasurer's report S'O

V. Plan for Mini McKinney / Ace Of Clubs & Awards JH & ALL

VI. Unit Game Senior Center Status SVR

VII. Unit Games 2021 status JE

VIII. Board Of Directors Nomination status S'O

IX. Other New Business ALL

X. Adjourn

To: all clubs in Unit 225

Re: 2021 ACBL Unit 225 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on August 14, 2021, at 11:30 AM at the Tyler Senior Center, 1915 Garden Valley Road, Tyler. At that time we will vote on the slate of nominees for Unit 225 Board of Directors ~~selected by the Nominating Committee~~: Sandy O'Bannon (Chairperson), Charles Ford, and Sandy Hilliard. The nominees for the two positions are:

Jo Booth

Ginny Jones

Also, three current Board members are nominated for another term, as follows:

John Hamilton

Carol Kinsey

Mary Ramsey

Additional nominations may be made in writing to the secretary at least 10 days before the annual meeting. Any additional nomination must be signed by at least 10 members in good standing. Any additional nomination may be mailed to:

Tom Spradlin

1685 Wood Place

Longview, TX 75601

A copy of this letter is to be posted at all clubs in Unit 225

Directors and members, please plan to attend this meeting. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

mailed to
club directors
07/08/21

July 16, 2021 East Texas Bridge Association

Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held virtually. Eight directors were present: Jo Ellen Wade, Rathnam, Carol Kinsey, Susan Ford, Phyllis Alvarez, John Hamilton, Mary Ramsey and Tom Spradlin. Also, Paul Cuneo, District 16 Director, was present for part of the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

Paul Cuneo explained that the ACBL board of directors is being reduced from 25 to 13 members, so we will elect regional, rather than district, directors. Our region is being formed by District 16 plus one other district. This reorganization is pertinent to elections only, nothing else will change. Each of the current Unit 225 directors will get one vote for regional director, beginning August 15 in an online election. Paul is a candidate for regional director and asked for our votes. In questions from the directors, Paul confirmed that one can serve on our board while living in the territory of a different unit. Also, Paul emphasized the importance of personal contacts in trying to gain new members.

After Paul left the meeting, directors approved the minutes of the June meeting as drafted, and approved the treasurer's report for June.

The Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs Awards for 2020 have been posted on the website, but we will present these awards personally at the August annual meeting. Also at that meeting we will recognize Life Master achievements for 2020, holding the 2021 achievements for the December meeting. Carol has emailed the unit membership with an announcement of the August 14 annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda June/ July 2021

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

III. District D16 Election Status **PC**

IV. June minutes (sent previously via email) **All**

V. Treasurer's report **S'O**

VI. Plan for Mini McKinney / Ace Of Clubs & Awards **JH & ALL**

VII. Unit Game Senior Center Status **SVR**

VIII. Other New Business **ALL**

IX. Adjourn

AUGUST 14, 2021 UNIT 225 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by President Rathnam.

The minutes from the last general meeting held Aug. 10, 2019 were read by Tom Spradlin, secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

The annual financial report was presented by Treasurer Sandra O'Bannon. The report was approved by the membership by voice vote. Linda Harrison commended Treasurer O'Bannon for her efforts in getting our federal tax-exempt status restored.

President Rathnam recognized the outgoing Board members, Phyllis Alvarez, Linda Harrison, and Jo Ellen Wade, and commended their work. Sandra O'Bannon reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that they had identified Jo Booth and Ginny Jones as candidates for the Board. These two new members of the Board were approved by the membership by voice vote.

The annual awards were presented by President Rathnam and John Hamilton. Recipients were:

Emily Leake Award – Suzanne Smith

Ben Friend Award-Mary Bartley

Texas Star Award: Charles Ford

Good Will Award: Lisa Looney

Life Master awardees were recognized for their accomplishments. These included Cliff Smith for Bronze Life Master, Sammie Borum for Silver, Annette Crawford for Ruby, and Nancy Green for Gold.

John Hamilton and Rathnam announced the winners of the various Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Awards for both 2019 and 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 General Meeting Agenda Saturday, August 14, 2021

Call to order

Reading of minutes- Tom Spradlin - Corrections? Move to accept; second

Treasurer's Report- Sandra O'Bannon- Corrections? Move to accept; second

Recognize All Current Board Members: Linda Harrison, Jo Ellen Wade, and Phyllis Alvarez going off after completing term.

Election

- **Nominating Committee Report- Sandra O'Bannon:**
 - Nominations received -current remaining 10 member board will remain in place as we transition to 9 member board: Rathnam, Carol Kinsey, John Hamilton, Tom Spradlin, Susan Ford, Sandra O'Bannon, Mary Ramsey, Jo Booth, Ginny Jones
 - There being no nominations submitted 10 days prior to election, Move to accept nominees by acclamation; second?

Other Business

- Any other business?

Awards- Jim Hamilton

- **The Ben Friend Award - most points accumulated in the Monthly Unit 225 games from August 1 thru July 31.**
 - Mary Bartley
- **The Emily Leake Award - novice player who begins on August 31 of previous year with less than 100 points and accumulates the most points at the Monthly Unit Game by July 31 of following year.**
 - Suzanne Smith
- **Texas Star Award**
Charles Ford
- **Goodwill Award**
Lisa Looney
- **Life Master and above awards**
- **Ace Of Clubs awards**
- **Mini Mckinney awards**

Wrap-up-Thank you for attending today and for your ongoing support of Unit 225. Your Board welcomes your input and ideas for improvement as we move forward.

New Board will meet soon to hold meeting to elect officers.

Adjourn

**September 10, 2021 East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes**

Seven directors were present at this virtual meeting: Rathnam, Carol Kinsey, Susan Ford, Sandra O'Bannon, John Hamilton, Mary Ramsey and Tom Spradlin.

The Treasurer's report for August was reviewed and approved by voice vote, as were the minutes of the July 16, 2021 meeting.

President Rathnam announced that the club in Athens is OK to continue play at least through the end of this year. The club has bridge accessories to donate to any club that needs them, and will give them to the Dallas club if nobody in Unit 225 needs them.

President Rathnam proposed that we appoint a board member to spearhead Club Promotion and Membership. Mary Ramsey volunteered to head this effort, and Rathnam said he will ask Lisa Looney to help. Mary and Lisa might ask for help from others. Carol Kinsey suggested that the Board meet with Club Directors to enlist their assistance, and the Board decided to hold a Zoom meeting with them, probably in October.

President Rathnam also announced that Ginny Jones will work with John Hamilton in the area of awards, in preparation for the awards to be presented in December. Also, Rathnam, Carol Kinsey, and Sandra O'Bannon will serve on a committee to consider upcoming tournaments. The committee will consider which tournaments to sponsor and will report back to the Board on what dates might be available. Rathnam also agreed to chair the sectional tournament.

Rathnam suggested that the Treasurer's office should be audited, and he will appoint someone to take on that task.

We need to consider carefully the various jobs that the Directors will assume as time goes on, and this will be a topic for future meetings.

Sandy O'Bannon mentioned that, for the first time, she has received money from ACBL for disbursement from a club's charity game. In the past, this money has been sent to the charity by the club director, but ACBL says the treasurer should do that. The Board authorized Sandy to disburse this money to the Van Zandt County Santa's Kids organization, the charity chosen by that club.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda September 2021

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call
- III. August minutes (sent previously via email) All
- IV. Treasurer's report S'O
- V. BOD details assignment SVR / ALL
- VI. Strategy On Club Promotion, Membership ALL
- VII. Plan For December Awards GJ/ JH
- VIII. Texas Star & Goodwill Award nominees For Unit 225 ALL
- IX. Equipment Athens Club SVR/ALL
- X. Tournaments Unit 225 For 2022 & 2023 ALL
- XI. Other New Business ALL
- XII. Adjourn

October 9, 2021 East Texas Bridge Association

Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

Six directors were present at this meeting held at the Tyler Senior Citizens Center: Rathnam, Sandra O'Bannon, John Hamilton, Mary Ramsey, Jo Booth, and Tom Spradlin.

The Treasurer's report for August was reviewed and approved by voice vote, as were the minutes of the September 10, 2021 meeting.

Mary Ramsey has spoken with Lisa Looney about the Club Promotion and Membership effort. Mary will try to convene the club directors at our meeting in November to learn about the numbers of members lost and the causes. In case that should not be feasible, she will call the club directors to seek input on that question. Sandra O'Bannon, with help from Jo Booth, is willing to give lessons in the Tyler area, and John will compile a list of independent living places where we can try to recruit.

There will be nine new life master awards to grant at the December meeting, and John will order the plaques. The number of awards has shrunk with our attendance. We will need to hear from club directors if any new awards are earned between now and December.

We have received one nomination for the Texas Star Award and one for the Goodwill Award. We will vote on those at the November meeting.

The Unit 225 sectional tournament is sanctioned for July 14-16, 2022 (Thursday to Saturday). Swiss Team events will be held on Saturday. We have asked the Holiday Inn to reconsider their bid for the tournament, but we still must search for a new venue in Tyler. Meanwhile, other possible venues are being considered, and each offers different types of problems that we will have to face, such as parking, catering, etc. Rathnam and Sandra O'Bannon are chairing a committee looking into this.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda October 2021

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call
- III. September minutes (sent previously via email) ALL
- IV. Treasurer's report S'OB
- V. Strategy On Club Promotion, Membership ALL
- VI. Plan For December Awards GJ/ JH
- VII. Texas Star & Goodwill Award nominees For Unit 225 ALL
- VIII. Unit 225 Sectional Tournament ALL
- IX. Other New Business ALL
- X. Adjourn

**October 29, 2021
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with the following members present: Rathnam, Sandra O'Bannon, Susan Ford, Mary Ramsey, John Hamilton, and Carol Kinsey.

The minutes of the October Board meeting were approved by voice vote. There was no Treasurer's Report.

The first item of discussion was the December Awards Luncheon. Rathnam confirmed that Jack Blumenthal was not a current member of Unit 225 and would not be receiving an award at the December meeting. All the life master awards are on order. Next the Board discussed the menu options. Since the luncheon follows so soon after Thanksgiving, it was decided to "step out of the box" and do something different this year. Sandra O'Bannon, Hospitality Chair, was given the go ahead to arrange for a fajita bar from Salsaritas.

A meeting with Club Managers will be held on Nov, 13, at 11:15, prior to the monthly Unit game. The meeting is being held face-to-face so ideas can be brainstormed on:

- (1) How we can encourage participation at the club level and
- (2) How to increase membership in our Unit.

Focus will be given to how the Board can support the local clubs in their ongoing efforts. Mary Ramsey and Lisa Looney, co-chairs of the Club Promotion and Membership effort, will be present. Board members were encouraged to attend the meeting.

Rathnam and Sandra O'Bannon are still investigating possible locations for a 2022 sectional tournament. Susan Ford is working with ACBL on a regional NLM tournament sanction to be held in tandem with the proposed sectional tourney. Rathnam reported that it was suggested that we look at having vendors at future tournaments to help offset our operating expenses. The Board will continue to discuss the feasibility of holding a 2022 sectional tournament at its next meeting.

The Board voted to award the Texas Star Award to Sandra O'Bannon. Tom Spradlin has made a nomination for the Texas Good Will Award and will be asked to submit this nomination in writing.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Carol Kinsey

**January 5, 2022
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with the following members present: Rathnam, Sandra O'Bannon, Mary Ramsey, Carol Kinsey, Jo Booth, and Tom Spradlin.

The minutes of the October 29, 2021 Board meeting were approved by voice vote. The Treasurer's report for December was not completed, so Sandy O'Bannon summarized the reports for October and November, 2021. These two reports were approved by voice vote.

The first item of discussion was the July sectional tournament in Tyler. Sandy O'Bannon reviewed a list of 5 different possible venues for the tournament. Many require catering and have other disadvantages. Sandy and Rathnam recommend that we move ahead with the Holiday Inn. We do not yet have a contract proposal from them to review, but we understand from discussions with them that they will lower their price from \$7500 (last time) to \$5000, and that would be reduced by any amount that we spend on food. It was also suggested that we could collect sponsorship fees from select individuals who would set up informational tables in the tournament lobby.

There was a brief discussion of the potential attendance at the sectional tournament. Attendance has been weak at all tournaments since Covid, but Rathnam suggested that the current surge could well be finished by March. Also, since the tournament would be in the summer, the virus is less transmissible. In terms of financial risk, the contract with the hotel might permit a refund if we had to cancel because of Covid. Some members reminded the Board of the tremendous amount of volunteer labor required to put on such a tournament. Also, the tournament date is fast approaching, and there is so far no publicity.

Rathnam agreed to contact the Holiday Inn and ask once again for the contract for the Board's review. The hotel should be eager to supply it, because they have informed us that they would like a rapid response because of a competing interest in the July dates.

Finally, it was announced that the Board will meet with club directors again in February to continue discussions of ways to improve attendance. Also, it was announced that John Hamilton will leave the Board.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Tom Spradlin

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda January 2022

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

III. Previous minutes (sent previously via email)

All

IV. Treasurer's report

S'OB

V. Unit 225 Sectional Tournament

ALL

VI. Strategy On Club Promotion, Membership

ALL

VII. Other New Business

ALL

VIII. Adjourn

**January 21, 2022
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with the following members present: Rathnam, Sandra O'Bannon, Susan Ford, Carol Kinsey, Ginny Jones, and Tom Spradlin.

The minutes of the January 5, 2022 Board meeting were approved by voice vote, as was the Treasurer's Report for December 2021.

The first item of discussion was the July sectional tournament in Tyler. Rathnam announced that the Holiday Inn has made concessions in their proposed contract. There was wide-ranging discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of holding the tournament. Because of Covid, attendance is likely to be significantly decreased, and a tremendous amount of volunteer work would have to be arranged in order to hold the tournament. If we were to decide not to hold the tournament, we could direct our efforts toward the 2023 Regional. On the other hand, a tournament might build enthusiasm for the game again. Carol Kinsey moved that we resolve not to hold the July sectional. Carol, Ginny, Susan, and Tom voted in favor of the motion, with negative votes from Rathnam and Sandy O'Bannon. The Board decided not to hold the tournament. Susan Ford urged the Board to thank the Holiday Inn for their cooperation, and offered to check with ACBL to see what we need to do.

On 2/12/22 the Board will meet again with Club Directors prior to the Unit Game in order to discuss promotion of the game. The Board agreed once again to fund pizza for this meeting.

We have a sanction for the April 2023 Regional Tournament. Rathnam said that he has asked Mike Graham and Shirley Shelton to serve as chairmen, and they agreed.

John Hamilton will leave the Board at the end of January, and Rathnam is considering several people to appoint to that position. Ginny Jones will take over John's awards function. We will have a box lunch presentation of the Mini-McKenney awards in April, and then another awards ceremony will be held in August.

Tom Spradlin will leave the Board in August, and will work with Jo Booth toward passing the Secretary duties to her. Charles Ford, Sandy Hilliard, and Sandy O'Bannon will serve as nominating committee for replacing the departing members of the Board. We will need names of candidates by the end of June.

In other business, Carol Kinsey mentioned that it is time to update the unit's membership directory. She also mentioned that we need to find ways to improve attendance at the Unit games. The Board will monitor this, and consider steps in the future.

Submitted by Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda January /Feb. 2022

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Previous minutes (sent previously via email)** **ALL**
- IV. Treasurer's report** **S'OB**
- V. Unit 225 Sectional Tournament** **ALL**
- VI. John Hamilton's Leaving The Board** **ALL**
- VII. Mini McKinney / Ace Of Clubs Box Sandwich** **ALL**
- VIII. Nomination Committee For Selection Of BOD for next term** **ALL**
- IX. Strategy On Club Promotion, Membership Meeting** **ALL**
- X. Other New Business** **ALL**
- XI. Adjourn**

March 24, 2022
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with all members present: Rathnam, Sandy O'Bannon, Susan Ford, Carol Kinsey, Ginny Jones, Bonnie Magee, Jo Booth, Mary Ramsey, and Tom Spradlin.

Prior to this meeting, the Board had voted by email to change the date of the May Unit Game from the 3rd Saturday in May to May 14.

The minutes of the January 21, 2022 Board meeting were approved by voice vote, as were the Treasurer's Reports for January and February, 2022.

Sandy O'Bannon pointed out that we have a good supply of the pens we purchased for the Ace of Clubs and the Mini-McKenney awards. The Board agreed to present a pen to each of the top 3 places in every category at the Awards Lunch in April.

The Unit 225 Membership Directory was last updated in 2019, and the Board agreed that a new update should be undertaken. Sarah Niemann was instrumental in the last update, and Bonnie Magee agreed to contact Sarah and find out what needs to be done. The Board will consider this again after we learn more details from Sarah.

Since this year's sectional tournament was cancelled, the Board needs to focus on our Regional tournament in April, 2023, and on the Sectional/NLM tournament in July, 2023. While Mike Graham and Shirley Shelton have agreed to serve as tournament directors for the regional, we need to think about leadership for the sectional as well. Mary pointed out that it is unreasonable to expect attendance figures like in the past, but it is still the responsibility of the Board to provide opportunities for members to play.

Our annual award ceremony for the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, April 9, prior to that day's unit game. Sandy O'Bannon will ask the club directors for head count for ordering food, and will procure tea. Rathnam has the certificates for the first place winners of the Ace of Clubs award.

The nomination committee has not yet submitted a name for the replacement of the departing board member in the Summer, and Sandy will check with Charles Ford on this.

Susan Doty is organizing bridge lessons for some of her colleagues at UT Tyler. Sandy O'Bannon will do some of the teaching, and will direct a game if it needs to be held in the evening. Several members in several clubs are also working on lessons. Carol Kinsey suggested that we look in churches and senior centers to try to find students for the classes.

Sandy O'Bannon mentioned that we receive an in/out report monthly from ACBL and that it includes names of people who have moved into our unit area. Sandy suggested that we try to contact these people and welcome them.

The meeting ended at 11:10 AM.

Submitted by Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda March 2022

- | | |
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| I. Call to order | |
| II. Roll Call | |
| III. Previous minutes (sent previously via email) | ALL |
| IV. Treasurer's report | SOB |
| V. Awards Mini McKinney / Ace Of Clubs Changes | ALL |
| VI. Directory Publication For The Unit | ALL |
| VII. Unit 225 Sectional Tournament / Regional Tournament | ALL |
| VIII. Mini McKinney / Ace Of Clubs Box Sandwich And Announcement | ALL |
| IX. Nomination Committee For Selection Of BOD for next term | ALL |
| X. Strategy On Club Promotion, Membership Meeting | ALL |
| XI. Other New Business | ALL |
| XII. Adjourn | |

May 19, 2022
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with six members present: Rathnam, Sandy O'Bannon, Susan Ford, Carol Kinsey, Bonnie Magee, and Tom Spradlin.

The minutes of the March 24, 2022 Board meeting were approved by voice vote, as were the Treasurer's Reports for March and April, 2022.

Carol Kinsey reported on the status of the project to update the unit directory. In 2019 we printed 400 directories, and the price quote for 350 copies this year is \$423. Carol is using a different software than was used last time but appears to be compatible, so it will probably not be necessary to purchase new software, as we had discussed before. We are losing over 100 people and adding about 45 new. All individuals are asked to make sure their contact information with ACBL is correct, as that will be used in this project. The new directory will include only current ACBL members. The work will begin on June 1, and the directories will hopefully be ready in time for distribution at the annual meeting in August. Funds have been approved for printing and for buying software if needed.

Susan Doty has been able to gather only about two tables for lessons at UT Tyler, but she will also look into having lessons at Le Tourneau U. Rathnam will consider lessons at Tyler Junior College.

The annual meeting will be held the 2nd Saturday in August. The Secretary will distribute a notice of the meeting to the clubs, and Sandy O'Bannon will notify him of any board candidates so that those names can be included in the notice.

Rathnam will contact Ginny Jones about award planning for the annual meeting. The only awards to be considered are the Ben Friend Award (most masterpoints in unit games) and the Emily Leake Award (most masterpoints in the unit game, for players with less than 100).

Sandy O'Bannon and Rathnam attended the Fort Worth Regional in early May. The required proof of vaccination appeared not to be an issue, and nobody wore face masks. We need to focus on planning for our regional tournament in April 2023, and the sectional in July, 2023. Mike Graham and Shirley Shelton will serve as tournament chairpersons for the Regional, and we need to choose leaders for the sectional. We especially need to find a good venue for the Regional tournament.

The meeting ended at 10:10 AM.

Submitted by Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda May 2022

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

III. April minutes (sent previously via email) All

IV. Treasurer's report S'O

V. Unit Directory Status CK

VI. Membership Initiative Status SD/MR

VII. Annual Meeting & Director Election TS/Jo/S'O

VIII. Unit Game Awards Planning GJ

IX. Regional And Sectional Game Planning ALL

X. Adjourn

June 22, 2022
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with eight members present: Rathnam, Sandy O'Bannon, Susan Ford, Carol Kinsey, Bonnie Magee, Jo Booth, Ginny Jones, and Tom Spradlin.

The minutes of the May 19, 2022 Board meeting were approved by voice vote, as was the Treasurer's Report for May, 2022.

Carol Kinsey reported that the updated directory is ready for proofreading. It is based on current ACBL data, showing 278 members of this unit. Carol would like to delay printing for a bit while the Texarkana club seeks a new home, but still hopes to have the directory ready for distribution at the August membership meeting.

Sandy O'Bannon reported there is one new candidate for the board, Suzanne Birdwell. Her candidacy will be listed in the mandatory letter to club managers about the August meeting.

Ginny Jones has computed the scores of the leaders for the awards at the August meeting but will have to await the results of the July unit game to finalize them. Rathnam agreed to retrieve the award from Mary Ramsey and get it to Ginny.

Rathnam summarized the history of the unit game. Carol described an analysis of attendance showing that providing food increases attendance. Historically, we have provided food for the game twice per year, but the board agreed to provide a pizza buffet for the August meeting as well. While there is no unit requirement for monthly unit games, our agreement with the city of Tyler calls for us to hold a game monthly, and there is a risk we could lose access to our storage facility if we were to cut back. Also, fewer board members are attending the unit game because meetings are being held via Zoom, and the board agreed to continue Zoom meetings. Carol will include in her monthly email announcing the unit game a survey intended to help us understand why attendance is lagging.

Sandy O'Bannon and Rathnam are considering possible sites for our regional tournament in April 2023. Susan Ford agreed to check with ACBL whether the tournament, currently listed for Longview, can be moved to Tyler instead, and whether the length of the tournament, currently 7 days, can be adjusted. The board agreed that the location and dates need to be nailed down before we can constructively discuss the tournament.

The meeting ended at 11:15 AM.

Submitted by Tom Spradlin, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda June 2022

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

III. April minutes (sent previously via email) All

IV. Treasurer's report S'O

V. Unit Directory Status CK

VI. Annual Meeting & Director Election TS/BM/S'O

VII. Unit Game Awards Planning GJ

VIII. Unit Games Attendance Strategy ALL

IX. Regional And Sectional Game Planning ALL

X. Adjourn

August 1, 2022
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with all nine members present: Rathnam, Sandy O'Bannon, Susan Ford, Carol Kinsey, Bonnie Magee, Jo Booth, Ginny Jones, Mary Ramsey, and Tom Spradlin. Mike Graham and Shirley Shelton were also in attendance, as tournament co-chairs for the upcoming regional tournament. The meeting was called to order at 9:30.

Mike Graham reported that the Holiday Inn in Longview is available for the tournament, and he proposes using only the large ballroom, which would cost about \$1100 per day. The hotel is offering to provide guest rooms at \$89 per night. Both quotes are approximately the same as in 2019. He proposes operating the tournament for 5 days, April 4-8, 2023, with 2 sessions per day, morning and afternoon. Hopefully the tournament could be run with only two ACBL directors. He also proposes having no evening sessions, as they are sparsely attended and would probably require that the ACBL furnish another director, which would add to the expense. The sessions might be scheduled slightly later than normal, so that the afternoon session would end near dinnertime. Altogether, he estimated the expenses from these 2 sources, hotel and ACBL directors, to be approximately \$12-13 thousand.

Shirley Shelton mentioned that we need good cooperation from the local clubs. She suggested that they cancel their regular games and encourage players to attend the tournament instead. If the tournament makes sufficient profit, it might be possible to reimburse the clubs for the revenues they lose by closing.

During the discussion, Mike and Shirley reported that attendance at recent tournaments has been down on the order of 50%. Still, the offers from ACBL to try to limit the number of directors and from the hotel of attractive rates make it possible that this tournament could make money. In fact, the two expenditures that Mike estimates at \$12-13 thousand cost about \$33 thousand at our last regional in 2019.

Mike and Shirley estimate that the large room at the hotel would hold about 50 tables, but they feel we could spill over a bit into the lobby if necessary. As has been discussed previously, we might be able to supplement income by permitting booths in the lobby. There are also other ways to save money, such as on advertising and by forgoing gifts for attendees.

After Mike and Shirley left the meeting, it was moved and seconded that we hold this Regional Tournament at the Holiday Inn in Longview on April 4-8, 2023. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting ended at 10:10 AM.

Submitted by Tom Spradlin, Secretary

To: all clubs in Unit 225

Re: 2022 ACBL Unit 225 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on August 13, 2022, at 11:45 AM at the Tyler Senior Center, 1915 Garden Valley Road, Tyler. At that time we will vote on the slate of nominees for Unit 225 Board of Directors selected by the Nominating Committee: Sandy O'Bannon (Chairperson), Charles Ford, and Sandy Hilliard. The nominee for the sole position is:

Suzanne Birdwell

Additional nominations may be made in writing to the secretary at least 10 days before the annual meeting. Any additional nomination must be signed by at least 10 members in good standing. Any additional nomination may be mailed to:

Tom Spradlin
1685 Wood Place
Longview, TX 75601

A copy of this letter is to be posted at all clubs in Unit 225

Directors and members, please plan to attend this meeting. It will be followed by the Unit Game at 12:30PM,

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Tom Spradlin, Secretary

AUGUST 13, 2022 UNIT 225 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 by President Rathnam. A quorum was present.

The minutes from the last general meeting held Aug. 14, 2021 were read by Tom Spradlin, secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

The annual financial report was presented by Treasurer Sandra O'Bannon. Sandy emphasized the importance of the unit game. The report was approved by the membership by voice vote.

The President announced that preparations for the 2023 regional to be held April 4-8 in Longview at the Holiday Inn have started. We also received approval for the sectional tournament to be held in Tyler from July 27-30, 2023.

The new Unit Directory is ready. Many thanks to Carol Kinsey for all her hard work in preparing the new directory. Carol in turn gave thanks to Tom Spradlin for proof reading.

President Rathnam recognized outgoing Board member Tom Spradlin, and thanked him for his service on the board as our secretary. Sandra O'Bannon reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that they had identified Suzanne Birdwell as a candidate for the Board. The new member of the Board was approved by the membership by voice vote. Sandy also mentioned that Bonnie Magee had filled the vacancy left by John Hamilton when he moved.

The current nine Unit 225 board members were all recognized with Rathnam, Carol Kinsey, Mary Ramsey, Susan Ford, Virginia Jones, Sandy O'Bannon. Suzanne Birdwell, and Bonnie Magee being present. We missed Jo Booth.

The annual awards were presented by President Rathnam and Ginny Jones. Recipients were:

Emily Leake Award – Ethan Collins

Ben Friend Award – Mary Bartley

Barbara Bradford announced that "New to Bridge" lessons were starting at the Tri County Library in Mabank on September 12th from 6:30 to 8:30.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

August 22, 2022
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with seven members present: Rathnam, Sandy O'Bannon, Susan Ford, Carol Kinsey, Bonnie Magee, Mary Ramsey, and Suzanne Birdwell. The meeting was called to order at 10:00.

The minutes of the June 22nd and August 1st Board meetings were approved by voice vote, as was the Treasurer's Report.

Unit Game Attendance Strategy. We had decent attendance at the Annual Unit game. Rath suggested that we keep on doing what we are currently doing for the unit games in terms of location, but not food, till the end of the year then rediscuss it. Sandy brought up the issue of snacks. Prior to Covid the food was open, but after Covid, the snacks were individually packaged which increased the cost. Approximately nine tables are needed to break even and pay Mike without Sandy writing a check. If there aren't nine tables, Mike will not charge for shuffling the cards and using his machine. A motion was made to make no changes to the unit games at this time, leave the snack as is, individually wrapped, and reevaluate in January of 2023. It was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Sectional Tournament. Rath said we got 5 or 6 OKs to go with the Holiday Inn in Tyler for July 27th to July 29th, 2023. We do not have to make a deposit and can sign the contract as is. A motion was made and seconded to sign the contract, and was approved by voice vote. Rath said when he goes to Dallas, he was going to ask Scott if we can negotiate for similar things that were done for the regional tournament that Mike asked for re charges and the number of directors to save some money. Our sectional was approved to be a Sectional and along with the Sectional there will be a non-life master regional at the same time and location affording those people the chance to earn red and gold points. Rath is thinking of asking Janie Wolaver and Linda Harrison to be partnership chairwomen for the sectional so they can get teams ready for the Saturday Swiss Team game. Also need a person assigned as safety coordinator.

Regional Tournament. Tournament has been approved and Mike and Shirley are the chair persons. The deposit has already been paid to the Holiday Inn in Longview. Tom Spradlin got together with Shirley regarding the flyer sheet. Shirley has already talked to the printer that she used last time. Carol has worked up a one-page schedule brochure and a flyer. There was discussion regarding costs, and marketing. The consensus was we need to have budgets and committee chairmen who have the authority to do what needs to be done within their budget. They can then make their plans and report back to the board. We need to get flyers out re the regional as soon as possible. Carol will email Sandy the flyer she has made so that Sandy can take copies to the Richardson tournament in case Shirley's flyers are not ready.

The meeting ended at 10:40 am.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda August 2022

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

III. Latest minutes (sent previously via email) All

IV. Treasurer's report S'O

V. Unit Games Attendance Strategy ALL

VI. Regional And Sectional Tournament Planning ALL

VII. Annual Audit ALL

VIII. Adjourn

October 31, 2022
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with six members present: Rathnam, Sandy O'Bannon, Carol Kinsey, Bonnie Magee, Mary Ramsey, and Suzanne Birdwell. The meeting was called to order at 9:36.

The minutes of the August 22nd Board meeting was approved by voice vote, as was the Treasurer's Report.

Unit Games Attendance Strategy. We have been averaging between 6 and 7 tables for the last 2 unit games. In terms of promotions, the only thing we are doing is all the educational programs that are going on. We stayed with the previous decision to review this again in January.

Regional and Sectional Tournament Planning. On the Regional we have all our tournament chairs in place and the flyers are out. On the Sectional, Carol has declined to be a tournament co-chair. Rath and Sandy are co-chairing and are looking for another volunteer. Linda Harrison and Janie Wolaver have declined to be the partnership chair and suggest someone new take this on. Rath suggested that we need an experienced person and a new person to take this on. We need to decide this quickly so the flyer can be made. Sandy mentioned her disappointment in getting the email from ACBL still requiring vaccines through year end.

Annual Awards and Banquet. Rath talked to Ginny about the awards needed and she is on it and will be ready. Sandy discussed the banquet. She has been in touch with Traditions and Salsarita's regarding the food. After discussion of the cost and food, a vote was taken. Salsarita's won.

Star and Goodwill Nominees. Rath sent out an email that he received from the district for nominees. We have till the end of the year to make nominations. Details are on the District 16 website. We have received no nominations to date.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda October 2022

- I. Call to order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Latest minutes (sent previously via email)** **All**
- IV. Treasurer's report** **S'O**
- V. Unit Games Attendance Strategy** **ALL**
- VI. Regional And Sectional Tournament Planning** **ALL**
- VII. Annual Awards and Banquet** **ALL**
- VIII. Star And Goodwill Nominees** **ALL**
- IX. Other Business** **ALL**
- X. Adjourn**