

February 1, 2023
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, Bonnie Magee, Mary Ramsey, Suzanne Birdwell and Susan Ford. The meeting was called to order at 9:36.

The minutes of the October 31, 2022, Board meeting were approved by voice vote, as were the three Treasurer's Reports.

Unit Games Attendance Strategy. Unit games are averaging 8 tables or more. Rath is thinking of having a physical meeting where the board meets before the unit game at least every other unit meeting because we need to have some face-to-face interaction of the board members. Advantages are no 40 minute limitation as in Zoom meetings, and being able to assess body language of members and promote more active participation. Discussion was tabled.

Carol Kinsey has resigned from the board. We have 3 board members coming off the board this year Sandy O'Bannon, Treasurer & Hospitality, Susan Ford, Tournament scheduling & unit game sanctions and Rath, President.

Question was raised if we even want to have unit games if not profitable. We are a nonprofit organization and the goal is to keep bridge going. It is also an opportunity to see people in our unit that don't play at the clubs that we play. We will continue to monitor the unit games.

Regional and Sectional Tournament Planning. Mike has requested all regional tournament chairs to attend a meeting prior to the February unit game. Protocol for Covid is still on and we will continue to monitor that. Sectional tournament, we have the flyer done, the flyer is posted on the ACBL website, and talking to the Holiday Inn re buffet lunch for the Swiss game. Susan has sanctioned/reserved dates for the 2024 sectional and the 2025 regional.

Annual Awards and Banquet. Went very well. Rath thanked all involved.

Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs Awards – April 15th. Two Good Will awards to be presented to Nancy Green of Tyler and Charles Ford of Athens when Rath gets the pins.

Carol Kinsey has resigned from board. Her key responsibilities have been being the webmaster and electronic contact for the unit. Carol has graciously agreed to be the webmaster for the next six months for now. Suzanne Birdwell will take over the electronic contact. Rath has a person, Robert Aler from Tyler, who has told him verbally that he will accept joining the board. Rath wants another meeting purely to talk about replacing the outgoing board members and the outside people for the nominating committee. Currently we have Sandy Hilliard and Charles Ford.

Sandy O'Bannon mentioned that she has a verbal commitment from Christus Trinity to sponsor our sectional and are willing to pay for our coffee and tea. Supervisor has also approved for our Regional as well.

Rath has also spoken to Ron Gates from Tyler who has experience and knowledge on webmaster. Wants to know if unit provided equipment. Meeting was abruptly ended at 10:10 when Zoom terminated.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda January/February 2023

- 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. Mini McKinney and Ace Of Clubs Awards** **ALL**
- IX. Other Business** **ALL**
- X. Adjourn**

February 15, 2023
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, Bonnie Magee, Mary Ramsey, Suzanne Birdwell, Jo Booth and Susan Ford. The meeting was called to order at 9:38.

Website. Carol Kinsey had sent an email to the board advising of problems with the website which has been down since February 1, 2023. The program we were using from Turibfy, Site Solution, is being retired at the end of January due to its old technology. The annual fee we pay for the website is \$153,75 and is due 2/27. Ron Gates has been looking into taking over the website and has been discussing this with Carol. A decision must be made as to whom we are going to use going forward so we can transfer the current website material before it is shut down on 2/27. Ron does not have a computer. Mike has a laptop that belongs to the unit that he only uses for the unit games. Ron will use that computer to do the website. Rath has asked Carol to define the duties of the Webmaster and duties of the electronic contact. When Carol took over the website, she had no guidance and developed everything on her own. She feels it is the board's responsibility to define the expectations. Our website is independent, and it is solely for Unit 225 members, so it doesn't affect anyone else.

Board and Board Members. Carol has resigned, and we have 3 members coming off in July, so we need four board members. Rath has been asking for new members.

Robert Aylor (Tyler) willing to be on the board. Working on timing.

Ed Loutherback (Tyler). Ed originally played in Pittsburg, has moved to Tyler and is playing at the Tyler club. He dropped his ACBL membership, which Rath stated needs to be renewed so that he can serve on the board. He is considering the request and his decision will be known soon.

Robert Fiorendino (Tyler) willing to join the board.

Jo Ellen Wade who plays in Canton and moved to Rockwell. She previously served on the board and would be a good choice to come back to serve.

Cliff Smith who lives in Texarkana. Was interested in joining but declined because of distance.

Suzanne Smith, also from Texarkana. She also declined saying her plate is full.

Other considerations are Kyle Planas, and Deb Pascoe. It was noted that Deb is also good at website.

Ron is willing to do the website. The webmaster position does not need to be a board member, and we are not going to put him on the board because of his bad health. Therefore, we need to be thinking about another future webmaster.

Nominating Committee. Charles Ford and Sandy Hilliard with Sandy O'Bannon being the board representative.

The minutes of the February 1, 2023 Board meeting were approved by voice vote. We are current on the treasurer's report so no report was given

Sandy announced that she has been successful in obtaining a sponsor for both the Longview and Tyler tournaments. Christus Health Plans will pay for our beverages at both tournaments in return for setting up a table in the reception area to talk to people about their health plans.

Expectations. – Rath requested Board members to write their job description with detailed steps to their various responsibilities so this information can be passed along to the person that takes over their "job". During their term on the board, it is imperative that they update any of the information going forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:08.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary.

February 21, 2023
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

President Ratham addressed the board via email concerning the website for Unit 225. The current authoring and hosting were retired as of January 31, 2023. Carol Kinsey has resigned from the board and Ron Gates was assigned the task of analyzing the various hosting options available and the costs involved so he could give us a recommendation on the right one for our unit. His recommendation is:

He has selected Godaddy as the hosting author for our website. The costs are:

Hosting cost for services is \$180 per year.

Editor usage cost is \$9.99 per month.

Editor is a necessity for revising the website and creation of the new website to new standards.

Current hosting cost was \$154 annually but does not exist anymore.

Unit 225 provides me with the use of the required computer hardware.

In addition to this, Ron needs to buy a black box, estimated cost \$300, to hook his computer to a larger screen to be able to see all the contents on one screen to be able to properly ensure everything is in the right place. This device is needed as Ron has some health issues affecting his vision.

Sandy, I told Ron once approved by the board all the invoices from Godaddy will be sent directly to you and you will take care of the payments. Also, he wants you to provide him the details on our tax-exempt status. Once approved by the board, I also told him to provide the receipt for the black box to you, so that you can reimburse him.

We have to do this to maintain our website and provide all the services and benefits to all our members in our unit.

The Board of Directors who replied with an affirmative response were:

Rathnam, Bonnie Magee, Suzanne Birdwell, Jo Booth, Susan Ford, Ginny Jones and Sandy O'Bannon (verbal).

The consensus is to proceed with the recommendation from Ron. Ron please proceed with the process and keep us all updated on the status as well as timing

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

May 15, 2023
East Texas Bridge Association
CORRECTED Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with eight members present: Rathnam, Sandy O'Bannon, Bonnie Magee, Mary Ramsey, Suzanne Birdwell, Jo Booth, Susan Ford, and Ginny Jones. Debbie Pascoe initially joined the meeting to explain and update us on the new website then left the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Rath started the meeting by thanking Debbie for an amazing job setting up the new website and in such a short period of time. He also thanked Carol Kinsey for her fabulous job with the previous website, and for all her contributions, including working closely with Debbie while setting up our new website. He then turned the meeting over to Debbie who explained the new website in detail. The website address is www.bridgewebs.com/acblunit225 If we adopt this website, and a decision has to be made by July, the cost will be less than \$200 per year. Sandy O'Bannon made a motion to accept the new website that Debbie Pascoe has established. Bonnie Magee seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved so we are proceeding with this new website. It was also proposed for Debbie to be our new webmaster. The board agreed and Rath deferred that issue until we discuss the new board members.

The minutes of the February 15, 2023, Board meeting were approved by voice vote as were the minutes from the 2/24 email discussion regarding the website. The 3 treasurer reports were approved by voice vote. The Longview Regional was very successful, but not all the expenses are in, so we don't have a net profit as of now.

Regional Tournament. The top unit point recipient in the Regional was Mike Graham. Ginny will get the Tournament of Stars Award for the Unit plaque ready for him for presentation. Rath thanked all the people who contributed to the great success of the tournament.

Unit Board Nomination/Candidates. The annual meeting is coming in August. We have 3 people coming off the board, Rathnam, Susan Ford and Sandy O'Bannon and one resignation by Carol Kinsey so there are 4 openings that need to be filled. The nominating committee consists of Charles Ford, Sandy Hilliard and Sandy O'Bannon. Rath has suggested to the committee the names of Robert Aylor and Linda Gurasich. Debbie Pascoe has been recommended to fill the webmaster position in place of *Ron Gates* as he has health issues. Linda Gurasich has agreed to be treasurer. Rath asked the board to consider a suitable person that we need to pick to be the president. That selection will determine if the person is brought in immediately to have time to work with the current President before he goes off the board, or if we bring Debbie on immediately as webmaster to fill Carol's position.

The meeting abruptly ended at 11:08 as our time on Zoom ended.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary.

Unit 225 Board Meeting Agenda May 2023

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

III. Unit 225 Web Page Description **Deb/ Carol**

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

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

VI. Regional Tournament Final Summary **S'O**

VII. Unit Board Nomination / Candidates **ALL**

VIII. Sectional Tournament Planning **ALL**

IX. Adjourn

**May 15, 2023 via email
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes**

Folks,

I apologize for the abrupt ending of our meeting this morning, unfortunately we were discussing election of Directors for the board starting in August of this year. We were talking about the recommendation by Susan Ford to appoint Debbie Pascoe to replace Carol Kinsey on the board who resigned this year, she comes off the board next year.

The consensus I was asking from the board is if we want to bring her in immediately or wait to bring her in August with the election of other board members who are coming in to replace the one's coming off. If the view of the board is to bring her in immediately then I will act accordingly.

The other important item was current members of the board to spend a little time to decide on who would be a good candidate to be a President for the future to move the unit forward. As correctly commented by Sandy, we need an experienced person to take on this position and one who has been on the board to understand all the activities that happen throughout the year and also to steer the Unit to accomplish its goals and objectives.

Please note that we have two months to accomplish but earlier the better.

As noted earlier we have two nominees namely, Robert Aylor and Linda Gurasich who have agreed to serve on the board and Linda also agreed to serve as Treasurer. We still need one more to come on the The three people coming off the board have served their full terms and are not eligible to serve on the board per the by-laws. Needless to say, they will be available provide support and help if requested.

The other item on the agenda was discussions about preparation and planning for the sectional tournament in July. I will send a separate e mail on this.

We will discuss more on these items in our next board meeting in early June.

Thank you,
Rathnam

June 21, 2023
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, Bonnie Magee, Mary Ramsey, Suzanne Birdwell, Susan Ford, and Ginny Jones. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

The minutes of the May 15, 2023 Board meeting were approved by voice vote after a correction was made by Sandy O'Bannon as were the email minutes that followed the meeting due to its abrupt ending. The treasurer reports were approved by voice vote.

Regional Tournament financial results and rewards for Tournament Chairman: Rath gave us some background re payment at the Regionals. The regional tournament was approved for our unit around 2010. Ginger Ramey was the key person able to get approval for our unit to have a Regional. Approval was given to have Regionals every 3 years. Looking back on the records, a Regional was held in 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2023. Ginger was paid \$2500 for the 2015 and 2017 tournaments. The first tournament she did not get paid, but she got \$1500 for the 2013 tournament. It is in the minutes and the board approved that the people running the regional tournaments would get paid, but there were some conditions. If they made a profit of \$10,000, then the tournament chairmen would get paid. It was set up for a \$2500 payment. The 2019 Regional hardly made any money so the chairmen did not get paid. The thought process says that they need to get paid as it is a lot more work to run a regional than a sectional. Both the regional, as well as the sectional, are sponsored by the unit; the tournament chair that has volunteered or been selected organizes, budgets, and runs the tournament. All the actions that were taken in the past regionals were approved by the board at that time. All records exist in files in the storage area. These were not verified to corroborate the verbal responses.

The 2023 Regional's profit was \$9,627.69. Sandy commented that she has no problem with paying the chair and co-chair for their hard work, but she doesn't like the idea of a fixed amount and feels it should be a percentage of the profit made. Payment to the chairmen of the regionals is not in the Unit by-laws.

Rath gave his view. We are a tax-exempt organization. We do everything on a volunteer basis, and the primary priority is what is good for the unit, what is good for the members and are we promoting bridge. If anyone is going to be rewarded, it should be a reward not this mandatory thinking that I am going to do this because I am going to get paid for it. We should be doing this for the love of the game and promoting bridge.

Since the precedent had been set for payment to the chairman and co-chairman but the conditional \$10,000 profit had not been realized, it was agreed to reward a total of \$2000 to the chairman and co-chairman of the 2023 Regional.

It was also voted that in the future, a total 20% reward of the NET profit would be given to the chairman and co-chairman of the Regional.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 am with a future meeting being set up for 7:30 pm on June 28, 2023 to finish discussing the remaining items on the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Magee, Secretary

AGENDA for Unit Board Meeting for Wednesday 6/21/23

Folks,

I would request Suzanne to set up a zoom unit meeting for next week (Wednesday / Thursday) at 10:30 am for a minimum of 40 minutes.

The agenda for this session is as follows:

Routine items such as:

Meeting minutes

Treasurer's reports

Regional Tournament financial results and rewards for Tournament Chairmen

Sectional Tournament Planning

Board leadership for the future

As it has been the case we will run out of time to cover the entire agenda, so I would recommend that we schedule another meeting for the following week. Suzanne please schedule accordingly once we get a consensus from all.

Thank you,

Rathnam

June 28, 2023
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, Bonnie Magee, Mary Ramsey, Suzanne Birdwell, Susan Ford, and Jo Booth. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm

The minutes of the June 21, 2023 board meeting were approved by voice vote. Rath reported that the checks were mailed to Mike Graham and Shirley Shelton per the instructions the board voted on at the last meeting.

Sectional Tournament Planning: Rath and Sandy met with the people at the Holiday Inn. Bookings have increased. They discussed the luncheon meals for the first two days and the luncheon for the Swiss Teams on Saturday. Two people from the board, Bonnie Magee and Suzanne Birdwell, have agreed to serve on the registration committee. Need to have a chairperson for the registration area. Sandy Hilliard has agreed to come for all 3 days, even though she will not be playing, to help with the tournament. She said she could also work as a caddie. Areas where help is needed are registration, partnership, and photos as well as back-up for Rath and Sandy if they are doing two things at once.

Rath is sending a note to the club directors asking to borrow their bridge mates and boards. Provisions will be made to replace some cards on the borrowed boards, if necessary, so they can run through the dealing machine. The hope is that we will have 50 plus tables. Rath is also requesting the directors to promote the Swiss game on Saturday. If the nonlife masters do not have enough tables to have their own section, they will not be able to earn gold points, only silver.

Rath has been working with two sponsors for the tournament. One is Brookshire's and another lady, Becky Edwards from Touchstone Communities, have both expressed interest in providing funds. Rath made it clear that at the Holiday Inn you cannot bring in external food, everything must be purchased through the Holiday Inn. These people have not committed, but it seems very positive that they will.

Jo suggested that we get the clubs involved to help with the tournament, not just the board. Sandy said that at the regional, each club had a day to provide snacks, but since we do not have outside snacks at this tournament, the clubs could take a day to fulfill the needs for a day. Susan Ford had volunteered for registration for Thursday, Bonnie and Suzanne volunteered for Friday. Need 2 people per day. One more for Thursday and 2 for Saturday.

Another area where help is needed is selling tickets for lunch for Thursday and Friday. We want to encourage people to eat at the hotel. Every item of food that we sell gives us a credit toward what we must pay the hotel for food, and they are expecting \$4000. They are selling lunch for \$12, but we will be selling the tickets for \$10, and the unit will subsidize the \$2. If the hotel can't provide staff to sell the tickets in the morning, then we will have to have someone to do it.

Planning on using a service to move the tables from the senior center to the Holiday Inn and back.

Must set up another zoom meeting to discuss the last item on the previous agenda, Board Leadership for the Future. Rath will send out an email suggesting dates for this meeting. The new board starts on August 12th, so we need to have the meeting prior to August 12th.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

UNIT 225 Board Meeting August 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by the President, Rathnam. Present via Zoom were Rathnam, Sandy O'Bannon, Susan Ford, Suzanne Birdwell, Ginny Jones and Jo Booth. Also joining were two people who are nominated to become Board members, Bob Fiorentino and Deb Pascoe.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as submitted. Also approved was the June Treasurer report. We ended June with a balance of \$37,365.31. Sandy will complete the July financials this weekend, and send us the report.

Rathnam reported we will not make a lot of money from the sectional just held. Final tally is not done. But ACBL sent us \$10,000 to host the tournament, and so far we have expenses of \$9600. However, the comments received so far were all positive, and the tournament seemed to go well, with lots of positive comments.

Some "lessons learned" from the tournament include: using a moving service to get the tables to the hotel was a big expense. We need to see if there is a cheaper way to do that. We also spent \$500 on flyers to mail to all the clubs. Sandy feels that is an unnecessary expense, to mail them, as we can do an email blast instead. We also spent over \$100 on batteries for the Bridge Mates.

Also we offered fruit at both the morning and afternoon breaks. While it was well received, we could save some by only offering fruit once a day.

Making the boards up the night before would be a big help. The Board also authorized the purchase of 3 board cases, and one bridge mate case for approx.. \$380.

At the tournament we had 116 Non Life Master tables, and 121 Sectional tables.

Susan Ford is seeing if we can move our August, 2024 sectional. Our 2025 Regional is scheduled to be April 7-13, 2025. The 2025 Sectional is scheduled for August 7-9, 2025. We will announce the 2024 dates once we receive confirmation on our requested date change. (Susan did receive confirmation from ACBL, and the dates for the summer sectional is August 22-24.)

The Board voted on having pizza at our Unit Game and Annual Meeting August 12, 2023. Our nominees for Board positions are: Deb Pascoe, Bob Fiorentino, Robert Aylor and Linda Guarasich. Linda has agreed to become the Treasurer. We will need to select a President and Vice President after the new Board is voted in. Bonnie will continue as Secretary, Suzanne will continue to be responsible for Sanctioning, and Deb will be responsible for the Scorecard.

The Board discussed how to attract new members, and encourage current members to keep their ACBL memberships. Texarkana is the only club growing. Most members are not aware we receive a rebate from ACBL for every due paying member. Rathnam will reach out to the Club Directors to encourage them to talk to members who are still playing, but not dues paying members. Hopefully they can be persuaded to continue as dues paying members.

Bob mentioned the library in Lindale is going to be offering bridge classes. He will be working with the library on this project. Hopefully the classes will be well attended, and we can attract some new members.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

Submitted by Suzanne Birdwell

To: All clubs in Unit 225

Re: 2023 ACBL Unit 225 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on August 12, 2023, at 11:30 AM at the Tyler Senior Center, 1915 Garden Valley Road, Tyler, TX. Lunch will be served.

At the meeting, we will vote on the slate of nominees for the Unit 225 Board of Directors to replace the 4 directors going off the board. The directors going off the board are SV Ramarathnam, Susan Ford, Sandra O'Bannon and Carol Kinsey who resigned due to family needs. The Nominating Committee, which consisted of Charles Ford, Sandy O'Bannon and Sandy Hilliard, have selected the following nominees for the open positions:

Robert Aylor
Linda Gurasich
Debbie Pascoe
Robert Fiorendino

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

Bonnie Magee
167 Saint Andrews Dr E
Mabank, TX 75156

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 12:30 PM.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Bonnie Magee, Secretary

UNIT 225 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA, AUGUST 12, 2023

- I. Annual August Meeting Notice - Notification to Members**
- II. Call to Order**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. Minutes from last general meeting held August 13, 2022**
- V. Treasurer's year-end report**
- VI. Board of Directors Nomination Status**
- VII. Awards - TOS Award and TOR Award**
 - Unit Awards - Emily Leake and Ben Friend**
- VIII. Outgoing members**
- IX. Transition to New Officers**
- X. Audit of Treasury Committee**
- XI. Adjourn to Unit Game.**

August 28, 2023
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with six members present: Suzanne Birdwell, Bonnie Magee, Deb Pascoe, Jo Booth, Ginny Jones, and Robert Fiorendino. Absent Board Members were Robert Aylor, Linda Gurasich and Pat Wright. The meeting was called to order at 9:38.

The main purpose of the meeting was to elect a vice president and president from the newly elected board for 2023. Suzanne Birdwell, who set up the meeting, asked for volunteers for the positions. Deb Pascoe nominated Suzanne Birdwell. In the discussion that followed, Jo Booth volunteered to be vice president. Suzanne was very frank and said that if she takes on the presidency, other board members would have to take over the responsibilities that she currently has. It was stated that all board members are representative of the President and can address any questions or concerns so that the President doesn't have to personally be at every unit game or club within the unit area.

Bonnie Magee made a motion to nominate Jo Booth for Vice President and Suzanne Birdwell for President and have Suzanne's current responsibilities divided among the remaining board members. Ginny Jones seconded the motion. With a quorum present, the vote was unanimously approved.

The new officers are President, Suzanne Birdwell; Vice President, Jo Booth; Treasurer, Linda Gurasich; and Secretary, Bonnie Magee. Deb Pascoe is the Webmaster.

Deb Pascoe mentioned that the unit has a Facebook group and has had one since 2012. The group has 130 plus members but only had one administrator and he died. We can't get control of the group as it is without an administrator. Deb proposed to create a new Facebook group and allow her to reach out to the people on that group and allocate one or two people on as administrators with her. Robert made a motion to allow Deb to proceed with Facebook, it was seconded and approved.

Suzanne wants to schedule a meeting for October and have us think of ways to attract more members and make the existing clubs more viable.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

October 2, 2023
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with six members present: Suzanne Birdwell, Bonnie Magee, Deb Pascoe, Ginny Jones, Robert Fiorentino, and Linda Gurasich. Absent Board Members were Robert Aylor and Jo Booth. The meeting was called to order at 9:38 am.

President Suzanne Birdwell announced that Pat Wright has resigned from the board effective immediately. Mary Bartley has agreed to take his place on the board. A motion was made and seconded to approve Mary to be on board. It passed unanimously.

Linda Gurasich, our new treasurer, gave a report on how the unit money flows. All clubs are self-sufficient. They do not get any money from the unit, only from membership. If someone renews or joins, the individual clubs receive a percentage. The unit gets their money primarily from the unit games if there are enough tables. Breakeven at the monthly unit game is 8 tables. Expenses must be paid regardless of the number of tables. The other sources of revenue are the annual sectional tournament and the regional tournament, which is sanctioned every 2 years by ACBL. The only added expense besides the unit game is refreshments/food. When special games or charity games are held, it is the responsibility of the club to handle the details and get the collected money to the appropriate event.

The bulk of the current balance in our account is a result of a donation received from a member's estate at the time of their passing. The question was raised whether the money is just sitting there or if it is in an interest-paying account. Since it is just sitting there, Linda will investigate CD's. The question was also raised as to what to do with the money that is in the account. Discussion followed.

Minutes from the August 28th meeting were approved as written.

Sandy O'Bannon is starting a new Easy Bridge Course in mid-October.

Discussion of the December Christmas Unit Game ensued regarding the food.

Monthly Unit Board Meetings will be held virtually by Zoom the first Monday of every month.

The meeting ended at 10:06 am.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

**Agenda for Unit 225 Board Meeting
November 6, 2023**

1. Approval of meeting minutes of October 2, 2023 meeting
2. Treasury report
3. Finalize December Unit game menu.
4. Awards to be presented at December Unit game.
5. Update on August 2024 Tyler Tournament of Roses
6. Continue discussion for ideas to increase participation at unit games.
7. ACBL initiative to contact lapsed member who still are playing.

“see” you Monday morning, 9:30 am. Deb will be sending out the Zoom link

Suzanne

November 6, 2023
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with seven members present: Suzanne Birdwell, Bonnie Magee, Deb Pascoe, Jo Booth, Bob Fiorentino, Mary Bartley, and Linda Gurasich. Absent Board Members were Robert Aylor and Ginny Jones. The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am.

The meeting minutes from October 2, 2023, were approved.

December Unit game menu was approved unanimously. Brisket Love is providing the food and will deliver it with all the necessary side dishes, plates, silverware, etc. We are asking each club to have sign-up sheets for the Christmas Unit game so that we have a head count for the food order. It is also requested for members to bring a dessert.

Several awards are being awarded at the Christmas Unit game. We need someone to take pictures for the Scorecard and website.

Linda gave the treasurer's report. Discussion ensued as to investing some of the money in a CD and what was expected to be done with the money in our account. Bob and Linda will investigate a CD and the dispersion of funds was tabled. A motion was made and approved to invest \$25,000 in a CD.

Tyler Tournament of Roses. Rathnam and Sandy O'Bannon have agreed to chair the 2024 tournament.

Ginny Jones has purchased the plaques to be presented at the Christmas Unit game.

ACBL has an initiative to contact lapsed dues-paying members who are still playing. The benefit to the clubs to have memberships paid is that they get a rebate for every member's dues, which is a main source of revenue for the clubs.

Ideas to increase participation at unit games: Have a drawing at each game for a free play or a 50/50. Bob suggested that some of us from the board attend a Texarkana game and personally invite them to come to the unit game. Same thing for Pittsburg and Nacogdoches. Question was asked if we have sent out a questionnaire to the membership inquiring as to why they don't attend Unit games. Keep the questionnaire anonymous. Suggested that those who come from far-reaching units get a discount when they sign up. The biggest issue is the drive. Promote individual carpooling. Discussion to be continued.

Discussion ensued re having rooster available on website. Tabled due to privacy issues.

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

December 4, 2023
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with all members present: Suzanne Birdwell, Bonnie Magee, Deb Pascoe, Jo Booth, Bob Fiorenzano, Mary Bartley, Linda Gurasich, Robert Aylor and Ginny Jones. The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am.

The meeting minutes from November 6, 2023, were approved.

Linda Gurasich went over the treasurer's report and stated the current balance is \$37,532.53. The treasurer's report was approved.

Unit game/Christmas Party: Nine people from Pittsburg are coming to the game. Please express your appreciation for their efforts to come to the game. Ginny Jones announced that she has 20 awards to present. She sent out special invitations to the recipients to come to the game. Bonnie Magee volunteered to take photos during the presentations. Robert F. confirmed that he purchased food for 56 people and has set up all the necessary details.

Unit board zoom meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the month. However, the first Monday in January is New Year's Day, so the meeting was rescheduled for January 8th. As Bonnie Magee is leaving the board due to her move and no one volunteered to take over her responsibilities, the meeting time on the 8th was changed to 7:30 pm as Bonnie has a doctor's appointment the morning of January 8th.

Goodwill Award: We had one nomination from Mike Graham, Cliff Smith. Suzanne is going to submit his name to ACBL.

CD: Linda is working on purchasing a CD from Telephone Credit Union for \$25,000. She explained her plans and the necessary steps involved.

Suzanne confirmed that the designated charity for the Christmas unit game is Santa's Kids which provides Christmas presents for foster children.

Suzanne signed contracts for the 2024 and 2025 Tyler Tournament of Roses sectionals with the Holiday Inn. Rathman and Sandy O'Bannon agreed to chair the sectionals and negotiated with the Holiday Inn for the rate.

Mary Bartley suggested a way to help draw people to the unit game. Mike Graham can run a Swiss Team event. A & C players would play on a team and Mike would create those teams according to their points. February 10, 2024, was suggested as a date to try this. Another thing suggested was having lunch more often, not every time, at the unit games since we have the money. Pizza was discussed for the February unit game.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

Agenda for Unit 225 Board Meeting
December 4, 2023

Approval of November board meeting minutes

Treasurer's report

Finalizing plans for December Unit game and Christmas party

Continue discussion of ideas to generate more interest in unit games

Continue discussion on putting some money into a CD

Update on August, 2024 Tyler Tournament of Roses

Confirmation of Santa's Kids as the charity for the Unit Game on Saturday. (was listed on the sanction request)

Bonnie Magee will be leaving the Board at the end of December, as she is moving. We need a new Secretary. Please consider volunteering for this. Bonnie is willing to help with the transition

Any other new business

Hope to "see" you next Monday! Deb will send out the Zoom link later this week.

Suzanne

January 8, 2024
East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met virtually, via Zoom, with eight members present: Suzanne Birdwell, Bonnie Magee, Deb Pascoe, Bob Fiorentino, Mary Bartley, Linda Gurasich, Robert Aylor and Ginny Jones. Absent Board Members were Jo Booth and incoming new member Susan Doty, who was out of the country. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

The meeting minutes from December 4, 2023, were approved.

Linda Gurasich went over the treasurer's report. A \$20,000 7- month CD was purchased at 4% interest. The report was approved.

An email had been sent to the current board advising that Susan Doty was coming on to the board as Secretary to replace Bonnie Magee who is moving. A motion was made and seconded to formally approve Susan as our new board member. Discussion followed re changing the unit meeting day, which is held on the first Monday morning of the month, as Susan, who is still working, works on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Mary stated that before Covid, the meetings were held in person before the monthly unit game on the 2nd Saturday and she feels strongly about board members supporting the unit game. Discussion ensued. As the February unit game is a special Swiss team game to encourage and mentor new players and pizza will be served, it was decided to hold the board meeting prior to the unit game at 10:30 am on February 10th. Lunch will commence at 11:30 and the unit game will start at 12:30. The meeting time going forward will be addressed at that meeting.

Christmas party was reviewed. Lots of positive comments on the food. Suzanne thanked Robert F. for all his efforts. Robert then discussed the pizza being served at the February unit game. He is ordering the pizza from New York Pizza. Robert Aylor will pick it up to avoid the \$50 delivery fee. 14 pizzas were quoted at \$269.50 which doesn't include drinks or a tip to Mamie. We will request members to bring cookies for dessert. Asking club directors to publicize the Swiss Unit game and report back to Suzanne so we have a head count for food. Details for the Swiss game format were discussed. To encourage unit game attendance, Robert F. and Rathnam are driving to Texarkana to play and personally invite them to the unit game.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by Bonnie Magee, Secretary

East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 10th

The board of directors met in-person meeting at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the unit game. President Suzanne Birdwell called the meeting to order at 10:30 am and determined that there was a quorum.

Board Members present: Robert Aylor, Mary Bartley, Suzanne Birdwell, Susan Doty, Bob Fiorendino, Linda Gurasich, and Jo Booth. Absent: Debra Pascoe.

Agenda:

- Minutes from the January board meeting were approved.
- The board welcomed new board member and secretary, Susan Doty.
- The group discussed the anticipate success of the 2/10/24 unit game, which was an "8 is enough" Swiss Team, directed by Mike Graham. Registration was shut off with 14 tables. Pizza, drinks, and dessert was provided.
- Financial discussions, led by Linda, centered around the CD, how to report it monthly and whether there should be a second signature authority on it. It was agreed that noting the CD at the bottom of the budget each month and annually reporting a financial statement would be sufficient. While there was agreement that two signatures, that of the treasurer and the president, would be ideal in the future, it may not be possible to make changes until the current CD term is complete.
- Future board meeting times were discussed. While there was general consensus that in-person meetings on the Saturdays of unit games were ideal, there were concerns expressed that a few of the current board members generally do not attend the unit games. The group agreed to the next board meeting on Saturday, March 9th, coinciding with the March unit game.
- Unit Game participation was further discussed and, again, there was general consensus that food was the a big draw, especially for those who need to commute further for the game. The decision was to provide food at every game for the next several months. Suzanne Birdwell would make this announcement before the start of play on 2/10. Additionally, the board agreed to personally provide a light lunch for the unit game on 3/9.
- Bob and Linda discussed cleaning out the unit storage closet at the Tyler Senior Center. There were numerous unit-owned resources including certificates and paper goods that should be used before purchasing new.
- Mary suggested, and received support for, increasing the number of special games to additionally attract more people to the unit game. This needs to be communicated to and coordinated with Mike Graham. Suzanne agreed to do that.
- Robert raised the biggest challenge and ongoing discussion about increasing membership. The efforts of Sandra and Charles to teach beginner and intermediate lessons were acknowledged.
- Gaye joined the meeting and expressed her desire for the board to identify an alternative district representative because she would like to roll out of that position.
- Suzanne explained the financial incentives offered by ACBL to recruit and retain members.
- Suzanne ended the meeting promptly at 11:30am.

~SD

East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 9th

Agenda items:

- Approval of meeting minutes of the February 2024 Board of Directors meeting
- Approval of the March Treasurer report
- Discussion of how we thought the Swiss Teams Unit game went. Do we want to do more of them? Frequency?
- Any contact with list of “At Risk” members?
- Ideas for reaching “At Risk” members?
- Distribution of Mini -Mc Kenney Awards
- Any new business?

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the March unit game. Board members provided light lunch. President Suzanne Birdwell called the meeting to order at 10:30 am and determined that there was a quorum.

Board Members present: Robert Aylor, Mary Bartley, Suzanne Birdwell, Jo Booth, Susan Doty, Bob Fiorentino, Linda Gurasich, Ginny Jones, and Debra Pascoe.

Meeting minutes:

- Minutes from the February board meeting were approved, with minor adjustments. There was a request to distribute minutes to board members sooner in advance of the meetings to allow more review time.
- The treasurer’s report was approved. Linda shared that additional funds received from the sale of leftover pizza from the February unit game would be included in the next month’s financials.
- To better understand breakeven costs for the unit games, Suzanne led a conversation about fixed and variable costs to hold the unit game at the Tyler Senior Center. The fixed costs are approximately \$350 and include \$150 for Saturday Tyler Senior Center (TSC) facility rental, \$75 for (TSC) facility staff, and \$125 for game director. Variable costs are fees to ACBL and food, both of which are based on the number of players.
- At the new \$10 player fee, breakeven without food, is at nine tables. The February announcement of the fee increase to \$10 was made concurrent with the announcement that there would be light lunches provided at the unit games.
- The group discussed feedback from the Swiss Team game and agreed that it was positive. Even with an impressive thirteen tables, the game did not break even after the cost of the pizza. After much conversation about the issue, there was consensus that at this time our priority is to build unit game attendance and member satisfaction. The 3-pronged approach to doing this is increased promotion of the unit game at the individual clubs, offering “special gameplay” four times a year at the unit games, and providing food.
- Individual board members prepared lunch for the March unit game. Their contributions were recognized and appreciated. The board agreed that the volunteer effort was not a sustainable model for every game, however. Following a discussion about creative ways to reduce the cost of food, Debra offered to contact three local food providers to get quotes for light lunches at costs less than

pizza. Important considerations discussed, beyond cost, were quality, complementary items like drinks and desserts, and ease of pick up or delivery.

- Suzanne reminded the board members that there were ACBL incentives to both the unit and the club to follow up on "At Risk" members.
- Conversation about the ongoing challenge to bring in new players while also balancing the expectations of long-time members continued. Mary suggested a ProAm game for April and described how it would work with experienced players paired with newer players.
- Ongoing educational outreach was discussed, specifically that conducted by Charles Ford, Sandra O'Bannon, and Susan. While there is much enthusiasm about reaching out to the schools, those closest to K-12 and higher education institutions identified the roadblocks. Libraries, senior centers, and adult continuing education outlets were also identified.
- Bob and Jo offered to replace Gay Roach as the unit representatives at district meetings, which are held in conjunction with tournaments.
- Bob further shared that he and Rathnam would commit to playing at the more distant clubs from Tyler to encourage unit game participation.
- Suzanne indicated that she would not be able to attend the April meeting of the board and Jo confirmed that she would stand in.
- Suzanne closed the meeting promptly at 11:30am.

**East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, April 13th 2024

Agenda items:

- Approval of March Board of Directors minutes
- Approval of March Treasurer report
- Discussion on recommendation for Jacoby Award (see below)
- Discussion of May Unit game---what kind of game, food recommendations?
- We need to begin to publicize the August Tyler Tournament of Roses—need a brochure to forward to other clubs, units, etc.
- District representation
- Jacoby award
- Other business?

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the April unit game. A light lunch was provided by the board. Standing in as acting President, Jo Booth called the meeting to order at 10:30 am and determined that there was a quorum.

Board Members present: Robert Aylor, Mary Bartley, Jo Booth, Susan Doty, Bob Fiorendino, and Linda Gurasich.

Meeting minutes:

- Minutes from the March board meeting were approved, with the update that Rathnam and Sandy would be the representatives to replace Gay Roach at district meetings.
- The Treasurer's report was approved, with note that the CD purchase date was 12/21/23. Linda requested that the minutes document that date.
- The April Unit Game had six tables. Mike Graham directed the ProAm format and announced pairings just prior to play. Feedback prior to the game was that some players were reluctant to play with partners they didn't know. Those players present, however, were enthusiastic about the format.
- The May Unit Game date is May 18th, not May 11th, due to Tyler Senior Center recognition of the Mother's Day holiday.
- The May Unit Game will be a regular game and is expected to be smaller due to conflict with the Fort Worth Regional.
- Jo offered to prepare a variety of salads, as an alternative to sandwiches or pizzas, for the May Unit game and will submit expenses to the board.
- The promotional flier for the August Tyler Tournament of Roses, prepared by Debbie Pascoe, was approved for distribution to the clubs.
- Unit Games start at 12:30. We have been asking players to arrive at 11:30 for light lunch with board meetings commencing at 10:30. There was consensus that we don't need so much time allotted to either. While we would like to see an 11:30 - 12:00 board meeting and a 12:00 - 12:30 lunch schedule, the May board meeting will start at 11:15 and lunch will be available at 11:45.
- Jo closed the meeting promptly at 11:30am.

**East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, May 18th, 2024

Agenda items:

- Approval of April Board of Directors minutes
- Approval of April Treasurer report
- Discussion of August Tournament of Roses
- Discussion of 2025 Longview Tournament
- Discussion of Website
- Discussion of June Unit Game
- Other business?

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the May unit game. A light lunch was provided by the board prepared by Jo Booth and Mary Bartley. President Suzanne Birdwell called the meeting to order at 11:15 and determined that there was a quorum. Board Members present: Mary Bartley, Suzanne Birdwell, Jo Booth, Susan Doty, and Bob Fiorendino.

Meeting minutes:

- Minutes from the April board meeting were approved.
- The April Treasurer's report was approved.
- Promotion of the August Tournament is proceeding and feedback on the flyers, prepared by Debbie, has been positive. There was discussion of giveaway pens, clips, or both. The decision was made to go with the clips.
- The Tyler sectional tournament is set for August 22-24, 2024.
- The Longview regional tournament is set for April 7-13, 2025.
- The June Unit Game will be a regular game and it is expected to be smaller due to the short space between the third week in May (May game pushed out a week due to Mother's Day) and the second week in June (normal unit game date). Lunch will be provided as has become the norm in 2024. Bob got a quote from Chicken Salad Chick. Susan said she would coordinate the June lunches.
- The composition of the current board was discussed. Not every club in the unit has a representative currently serving. To improve communication with the individual clubs, it was decided that each board member would act as liaison to a club in the district, as follows: 1) Robert Aylor – Nacogdoches, 2) Jo Booth – Canton, 3) Mary Bartley – Tyler, 4) Susan Doty – Pittsburg, 5) Bob Fiorendino – Texarkana, 6) Ginny Jones – Longview, and 7) Deb Pascoe – Canton. Please note that for most board members, this is not a match to the home clubs and will require more deliberate outreach.
- Debbie prepared a delivered a presentation on the enhanced capabilities of our unit 225 website. She has experimented with target messages, groups, and membership desk options. She will send out directions to the board and members are asked to familiarize themselves with the various communication options. The idea is that each board member will become the "go to" website contact to help their assigned club directors use this resource.

Suzanne Birdwell closed the meeting at 11:45.

**East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, June 8th, 2024

Agenda items:

- Approval of May Board of Directors minutes
- Approval of May Treasurer report
- Follow-up on website discussion
- Follow-up on club outreach
- Other business?

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the June unit game. A light lunch was provided by the board prepared by Susan Doty. In the absence of Suzanne and Jo, Debbie Pascoe conducted the meeting. Deb called the meeting to order at 11:15 and determined that there was a quorum. Board Members present: Robert Ayler, Susan Doty, Bob Fiorentino, Linda Gurasich, and Debbie Pascoe.

Meeting minutes:

- Minutes from the May board meeting were deferred to July meeting. Susan Doty briefly reviewed four points from the May meeting: 1) choice of clips for Tyler Tournament of Roses, 2) assignment of board member liaisons to clubs, 3) Debbie's website presentation, and 4) choice to make sandwiches rather than to use Chicken Salad Chick for June game.
- The May Treasurer's report was approved.
- A formal request was made that if any board member needs to miss the Unit Game Board Meetings that Suzanne be notified in advance. We have barely made quorums for the past two meetings.
- A reminder that we have shortened both the board meeting and eating times before unit games. Meeting times 11:15 – 11:45 and lunch time 12-12:30.
- Bob and Mary have actively engaged with their assigned clubs. The other directors present agreed to do so before the July meeting.
- Jo offered to prepare lunches for the July unit game. Others offered to assist with desserts.
- Debbie reminded the group that she provided the login and instructions for exploring the additional communication options of the website. As a group, we did not do a good job of practicing with these options between the May and June meetings. Holidays, storms, health emergencies ... Let's do better! Remember, that as webmaster, Debbie is watching – ha, so no fibbing!

Debbie Pascoe closed the meeting at 11:45.

**East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, July 13thth, 2024

Agenda items:

- Treasurer Report
- Minutes from last meeting
- Discussion on new Board member recommendations
- Update on August Tyler Tournament of Roses
- Update on ACBL 5-5-5- program and updating our records
- Any other business?

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the July unit game. A lovely lunch was provided by the board prepared by Jo Booth. Suzanne called the meeting to order at 11:00 and determined that there was a quorum. Board Members present: Robert Ayler, Mary Bartley, Suzanne Birdewill, Susan Doty, Bob Fiorentino, Ginny Jones, and Debbie Pascoe. Absent: Linda Gurasich

Meeting minutes:

- On July 10th, knowing that she would not be attending today's board meeting, Linda sent out both the Treasurer report and a detailed email about the maturation of the CD on July 21st. The board approved the minutes and discussed whether the funds should be put immediately into another CD. Linda's email indicated the *\$20,000 CD has been invested at 4%. If we roll that into another 7 mo CD, we earn 3.5%. If we get a 4 month CD, we earn 4%*. The decision was to wait at least until after the Sectional tournament in August and to consider waiting until after the regional tournament in April before purchasing another CD.
- Minutes from both the May and June meetings were approved.
- Susan Doty was thanked for providing sandwich lunches at the June meeting and she, in turn, thanked Debbie for filling in to play with Ethan Collins when Susan had to leave. It worked out well for everyone, congratulations to Debbie and Ethan.
- There was discussion regarding potential new board members with the need to replace Ginny Jones, who rolls off the board in August. General agreement was that all the unit clubs should ideally be represented. Bob Fiorentino expressed a strong preference for Texarkana because of the growth in that club.
- Plans for the August Tournament of Roses are progressing well under the leadership of Sandy and Rathnam. It is important to note that tournament is normally held in July and this year the venue was booked.
- There were questions about the past practice of paying tournament chairs at regional but not sectional tournaments. President Birdwell asked Secretary Doty to read through past minutes and report what is in the records about this and report at the August board meeting.
- Given the later date of the sectional and Suzanne saying she could not attend the August unit game and annual meeting, we discussed postponing the annual meeting until September. A third reason to do so is that the Tournament of Roses award(s) are normally given out at the August meeting. Ginny Jones shared that it would violate the by-laws and, based on that information, the board agreed to hold the meeting in August with VP Booth presiding.
- Jo offered again to prepare lunches for the August unit game. Others offered to assist.
- Suzanne closed the meeting at 11:45.

**East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Annual Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, August 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Jo Booth at 11:45. It was noted that there was not a quorum of board members present.

Minutes from last year's annual meeting were read and approved with one correction. Mike noted that the date of the upcoming Tournament of Stars was incorrect. The correct date is April 8-12, 2025.

Linda presented the annual financial report noting that a \$420 credit adjustment had been made at the beginning of the report to reconcile to the bank statement. After spending many hours trying to find the \$420, she decided it was ok to make the adjustment and move forward. The year began with \$28,621 and ended with \$36,121. The financial report was approved.

Ginny Jones is leaving the board, and her service was noted and appreciated. Bob Fiorindino talked with Brenda Williams from Texarkana about joining the Board as there is no representation from Texarkana. She agreed and a motion was made and approved to accept her on the board.

There were no awards given at this meeting, but they will be given next month. One of them depends on the Tournament which is being held this month instead of July.

Bob Fiorindino suggested that we move our fiscal year from Aug 1-July 31 to Sept 1-Aug 31 since our tournament is being held in August for at least the next 2 years. He believes we need to know the financial results to be able to make decisions for the year. He asked John Gurasich to look into the tax ramifications of moving the fiscal year. Someone else suggested contacting ACBL to see if they would have any issues since we are on the same fiscal year as they are. Sandy O'Bannon noted that our legal fiscal year is Aug 1 with the IRS. A decision will be made after more discussion.

It was announced that Mike will run a Swiss game for the Unit in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Gurasich

**East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, September 24thth, 2024

Agenda items:

- Review and approval of August Meeting Minutes
- Review and approval of August Meeting Financials
- Review of Tyler Tournament of Roses
- Replacement of Ginny Jones and role of Awards chair
- October Swiss Team Unit Game
- October 18th Tyler Club 50th Anniversary celebration
- New business?

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the July unit game. A lovely lunch was once again provided by the board and prepared by Jo Booth. Suzanne called the meeting to order at 11:00 and determined that there was a quorum. Board Members present: Mary Bartley, Suzanne Birdewll, Susan Doty, Bob Fiorentino, and Debbie Pascoe. Absent: Robert Aylor and Linda Gurasich.

Meeting minutes:

- The board welcomed new board member from the Texarkana club, Brenda Williams.
- Unit meeting minutes from August were approved, with note that Susan Doty provided paper goods, identified as needed at the July meeting, to the unit at the August meeting.
- Financials, sent in advance by Linda, were approved, with note that they would be updated at October meeting.
- Review of Tyler Tournament of Roses was tabled, pending final financials.
- Finalization of Awards Chair replacement was tabled, pending review of duties
- Discussion of awards and elimination of several to reduce costs was discussed and tabled, awaiting new Awards Chair.
- Discussion of voluntary versus compensated tournament organization ensued, decision tabled for further review.
- October 12th unit game will be Swiss Team format unit will be "8 is enough" format. Send teams to Mike Graham.
- Robert Aylor is providing Chicken and Pasta dish for October 12th unit game. Mary Bartley and Susan Doty will provide salads. Please send count to Robert through clubs.
- Bob Fiorentino is providing the lunch at the October 18th Tyler game. \$10. Please send count to Bob through clubs.
- Suzanne discussed updated revision of the directory, details at next meeting.
- Suzanne discussed inviting Sandy and Rathnam, Tyler Tournament of Roses co-chairs, to next meeting.
- Suzanne closed the meeting at 11:45.

**East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, October 12th, 2024

Agenda items:

- Review and approval of September Meeting Minutes
- Review and approval of September Meeting Financials
- Review of Tyler Tournament of Roses

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the October Swiss Team unit game. A delicious hot chicken and pasta lunch was provided by the board and prepared by Robert Aylor, with Mary Bartley and Susan Doty bringing salads. Linda Gurasich and Sassy Crookshank added desserts. Suzanne called the meeting to order early at 10:30 and determined that there was a quorum. The early start time was to allow guest speakers Sandra O'Bannon and SV Ramarathnan, tournament co-chairs, to address the board. Board Members present: Robert Aylor, Mary Bartley, Suzanne Birdwell, Jo Booth, Susan Doty, Bob Fiorendino, Linda Gurasich, Debbie Pascoe, and Brenda Williams.

Meeting minutes:

- The board approved the September minutes with the correction to add Jo Booth as present.
- The board approved the financials as presented by Linda Gurasich.
- The board thanked Robert Aylor for the meal and acknowledged the others who contributed.
- A reminder that Bob Fiorendino is providing the lunch at the October 18th Tyler game, which recognizes the club's 50 year history. \$10. Last call - please send count to Bob through clubs.
- Sandra O'Bannon and SV Ramarathnan, tournament co-chairs, made thorough presentations about the Tyler Tournament of Roses processes and outcomes. The gist of the conversation was that the tournament lost money. The financial loss can be attributed to a number of factors, including: 1) the change in tournament date from a July tradition to late August; 2) lower attendance, perhaps attributed to the date change and competing tournaments; 3) lack of sponsorships; 4) too much food; 5) too expensive food choices.
- Bob Fiorendino asked for a written recommendation from the co-chairs regarding changes for the Summer 2025 tournament.
- The board thanked Sandy and Rathnam for their presentation and, especially, their service to the unit. While the tournament was not profitable, it was certainly fun and received many compliments from players.
- Suzanne closed the meeting at 11:45.

**East Texas Bridge Association
Unit 225
Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, November 9th, 2024

Agenda items:

1. Review and Approve October Meeting Minutes and Financial Report
2. Continue discussion about paying the Tournament Chairs.
3. Review offering free play for new players
4. Update on printed Unit 225 Directories
5. Any other new business?

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the November unit game. Suzanne Birdwell called the meeting to order early at 11:00 am and determined that there was a quorum. She reminded the directors that it takes five for a quorum. Those present were Mary Bartley, Suzanne Birdwell, Jo Booth, Susan Doty, Linda Gurasich, and Debbie Pascoe. Absent were Robert Aylor, Bob Fiorendo, and Brenda Williams.

Meeting minutes:

- The board approved the October minutes.
- The board approved the October financial report.
- The board thanked Jo Booth for preparing lunch and acknowledged the others who contributed.
- After reviewing available documentation in correspondence, past financials, unit documents, and ACBL best practices, there was further and final discussion on the topic of paying tournament chairs. The motion was made and seconded to honor past payment agreements through the Tournament of Stars in spring 2025 and to discontinue the practice after that regional tournament. The issue was called to a vote and the motion passed in a 5-to-1 vote.
- The board discussed the 2024 recruiting practice of providing “free” play to new members. The motion was made and passed to continue it and extend the one month of play at the individual clubs to include one unit game.
- The December unit game was discussed. Mark Leighton from the Tyler club is preparing the full turkey meal. Board members offered to supplement with desserts.
- Mary Bartley shared updates on the awards that will be presented at the December unit game.
- Suzanne closed the meeting at 11:45.

East Texas Bridge Association

Unit 225

Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, December 14th, 2024

Agenda items:

1. Review and approve November meeting minutes
2. Review and approve November Treasurer Report
3. Swiss Team Unit Games
4. Texarkana Unit Game Plans
5. Update on the 2024 Tournament of Roses – Sandra O'Bannon
6. Awards
7. Fundraising
8. Any other new business?

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the December unit game. Suzanne Birdwell called the meeting to order early at 11:00 am and determined that there was a quorum. Those present were Mary Bartley, Suzanne Birdwell, Jo Booth, Susan Doty, and Linda Gurasich. Absent were Robert Aylor, Bob Fiorentino, Debbie Pascoe, and Brenda Williams. Bob shared that Robert Aylor was resigning from the board.

Meeting minutes:

- The board approved the November minutes with two additions added by Linda Gurasich. Unit 225 entry fees for tournament play will increase from \$14 to \$15 and Brenda Williams will take over Scorecard.
- The board approved the November financial report.
- Suzanne Birdwell reported that Mike Graham has confirmed Swiss Team unit games for February and September 2025 and proposed discontinuing ProAm games due to lack of interest.
- Suzanne also confirmed that she has informed Mike Graham the co-chairs for the Tournament of Stars in Longview will be paid in Spring 2025 but that this would be the last year. The practice will be discontinued in the future.
- Plans are progressing to spread the unit games around the area with the first planned for March in Texarkana, pending confirmation from Brenda Williams.
- The update on the 2024 Tournament of Roses was tabled at Sandy O'Bannon's request until she could co-present again with Rathnam.
- Suzanne shared that there has been progress on the directory updates and they will be available in early spring.
- The board thanked Mark Leighton for providing lunch at the holiday party unit game.
- Mary Bartley reported 15 awards would be presented following our meeting. While two new recipients were added, Beryl Cobb and Sanjay Santhanam, there were two who fell through the cracks, Anne Haynes and the Britts.
- Susan Doty nominated Sandra O'Bannon for the STAR award.
- Susan Doty asked the board to consider a fundraising versus cost-cutting approach to shoring up Unit 225 finances. She shared some of the ideas from unit members who were interested in spearheading the effort, specifically those of Beryl Cobb and Sanjay Santhanam. Board members present thought the approach had merit but wanted to discuss further and with greater detail.
- Jo Booth offered to return to providing salad lunch at the January unit game.

Addendum to minutes: *The January board meeting was cancelled due to weather concerns. Next meeting on Saturday, February 8th.*