

## **January 2025**

No Board Meeting. It was canceled early due to possible bad weather. A Unit Game was held with 7 tables as the weather was not bad in Tyler.

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

The board met at the Tyler Senior Center on Feb 8, 2025. Members in attendance were Suzanne Birdwell, Linda Gurasich, Mary Bartley, and Jo Booth. Absent were Bob Fiorendino, Debbie Pascoe, and Brenda Williams. We have 2 vacant board positions as Robert Aylor resigned last month and Susan Doty resigned before today's meeting.

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 11:30. She reported that Elaine Dorsey, of Canton, will replace Robert Aylor and we discussed Peggy Singer, from Tyler and Longview, being a possible replacement for Susan.

Our March board meeting will be in Texarkana at 11:30. They will provide lunch. Mike will direct.

Linda Harrison would like for Pittsburgh to host the May Unit Game. After some discussion about possible months for that, it was decided to do it in May since that is what she requested.

The Longview tournament in April will be on the day of our regular meeting. We will discuss in March whether to have a meeting that month.

Suzanne says the directories are ready and she is hoping that Carol Kinsey will have them today.

Debbie Pascoe will not be able to update the website or submit articles for Scorecard as she has another huge volunteer job coming up. She will stay on the board. Linda Gurasich volunteered to take over the website and Jo Booth will handle Scorecard until someone else steps in. As both of these members have other jobs, it would be wonderful if a board member who doesn't have another responsibility would do this. The website requires some computer skills and training is available. Scorecard doesn't. You would be the point person for the District 16 newsletter and will be contacted when it is time to submit an article. Since clubs are anxious to tout things that are going on at their club, getting articles isn't difficult. There may be some editing to do and follow-up to get what is needed.

Jo suggested that we present a plaque to Susan Ford, in honor of Charles Ford, at the August meeting acknowledging all that he contributed to our Unit. We all agreed. This needs to be discussed more specifically to layout what it will say so that Mary can order it.

Suzanne adjourned the meeting at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gurasich  
February 12, 2025

East Texas Bridge Association  
Unit 225  
Board Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2025

Suzanne Birdwell called the meeting to order at 11:40 in Texarkana, Texas.

Suzanne, Bob Fiorendino, Mary Bartley, Debbie Pasco, Brenda Williams, and Linda Gurasich were in attendance. Jo Booth and Elaine Dorsey were absent.

Suzanne had the Mini McKinney and Ace of Clubs certificates, and it was decided that each club would present them to the winners as we will not be having an April unit game due to the Longview Tournament.

Jo Britt was voted onto the board and she has agreed to be the Secretary.

It was reported that the Longview Tournament hotel rooms are almost gone and Mike is expecting a good turnout.

Thanks to Texarkana and the Sheila Bell DBC for hosting the Unit Game. 13 tables are expected.

The meeting was adjourned at noon for a wonderful lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gurasich  
Interim Secretary

No April 2025 Board  
meeting due to  
Longview Regional

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

**Saturday, May 17, 2025**

**Agenda items:**

1. Review and approve March meeting minutes
2. Review and approve March Treasurer Report
3. Tournament of Stars result
4. June Unit Game
5. Any other new business?

The board of directors met in-person at the Tyler Senior Center in advance of the May unit game. Jo Booth, vice-president, in the absence of the president, called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. Those present were Jo Booth, Jo Britt, Linda Gurasich, and Mary Bartley.

- The minutes were read and inadvertently approved since a quorum was not present.
- The treasurer's report for March was \$520 on the 13-table unit game in Texarkana minus Mike's fee of \$181 and food expense, netting about \$200 profit. It was reported that April's expenses are nearly all related to the Tournament of Stars regional except for ACBL 1<sup>st</sup> quarter income. A revised Unit 225 Tournament of Stars financial description was handed out.
- Discussion on several topics occurred inadvertently since a quorum was not present.
- The meeting was adjourned by Jo Booth.

## May 17 Informal Discussion

- Profit made on March unit game in Texarkana
- April expenses are nearly all Tournament of Stars related except for ACBL 1<sup>st</sup> quarter income
- What the quarterly payments are and how club reports generate the quarterly amount were discussed.
- Discussion about the tournament covered the following:
  - Gratuity to Mike and Shirley and future gratuity for the regional directors was discussed.
  - The regional made around \$5800 since the unit lost \$5000 on the sectional.
  - Questions about the transport fee to Shirley occurred. A consensus was to investigate the cost of a bonded moving company to use in the future.
  - Jo Booth suggested Sandy and Mr. R could do regional and someone else do the sectional.
  - Jo Booth asked about bringing the regional back to Tyler.
  - Jo Britt stated several reasons why to keep it in Longview.
  - Location of the future regional and sectional discussion and other venues were discussed.
  - Jo Booth said Tyler was central to all clubs. Having it in Longview adds 40 minutes to her drive.
  - Linda said 2019 table count was 726, 2023 was 522, and 2025 was 423.
- Jo Booth asked for new business
  - Mary Brantley said Texarkana might apply to be their own unit and needed to be their own unit because they are too far from Tyler.
  - Linda Gurasich said maybe Suzanne could ask board members who could not come to Tyler to participate in by Zoom.
  - Jo Booth brought up the amount of money paid out for the unit games. She suggested each club director volunteer to do the unit game, make up the boards, bring their computer, set up tables, cards, and dealing machine, bridgemates, direct them in Tyler, and not have Mike do them.
  - Linda Gurasich asked if they would get paid.
  - Jo Booth said no one should get paid because the unit has money problems.
  - Mary Bartley said directors have always been paid.
  - Jo Britt asked if the unit had a dealing machine and was told they did not. She asked if the unit could share expenses with Tyler to get a dealing machine?
  - Linda said there was a fund drive currently going on for the Tyler club to get their own dealing machine. She said there was no consensus among the members on the need for a dealing machine. And there was the problem since it was Nancy's club, what would happen to the machine if she were gone? Who owns the machine? Does Mike use the dealing machine for his games?
  - Jo Booth asked if minutes would be emailed by Jo Britt.
  - Jo Britt said she would send a draft to the president or acting president to be reviewed before sending them to all board members.

**East Texas Bridge Association  
ACBL Unit 225  
June 14, 2025  
Tyler Senior Center, Tyler, Texas**

**Agenda items:**

1. Motion to have Jo Booth serve as President for June, July, August
2. Review and motion to approve March and May's minutes
3. Review and motion to approve March and May's Treasurer Report
4. Motion to move the Unit game and Annual Meeting in August from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>
5. Motion to name head of nominating committee to prepare a slate of board directors to be elected at the annual meeting
6. Any other new business?

Vice-President Jo Booth called the regular Unit 225 Board of Directors meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. at the Tyler Senior Center in Tyler, Texas. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

**Present:** Jo Booth, Bob Fiorendino, Linda Gurasich, Jo Britt, Elaine Dorsey, Deb Pascoe, and Mary Bartley.

**Absent:** Brenda Williams

Jo Booth asked for the minutes to be read. Jo Britt said that Robert's Rules of Order Simplified allow for the minutes to be accepted as emailed.

**MOTION** by Linda Gurasich

Move to approve the minutes of March 8, 2025 and May 17, 2025 meetings as emailed.

Seconded and carried without dissent.

Jo Booth asked for the treasurer's report to be read. General discussion occurred.

**MOTION** by Bob Fiorendino

Move to approve the treasurer's report of March 8, 2025 and May 17, 2025 meetings as emailed.

Seconded and carried without dissent.

Jo Britt discussed the conflicting dates of the Sectional Tournament and the Annual Meeting. General discussion occurred.

**MOTION** by Jo Britt

Move to change the Unit 225 Annual Meeting from August 9, 2025 to August 16, 2025.

Seconded and approved without dissent.

Bob Fiorendino discussed the May 28, 2025 resignation and then untimely death of President Suzanne Birdwell. General discussion occurred.

**MOTION** by Bob Fiorendino

Move to elect Jo Booth as President for June, July, and August, 2025.

Seconded and passed without dissent.

Bob Fiorendino discussed that he had people willing to donate toward a dealing machine that would belong to Unit 225 and could be used by any club. Specific discussion occurred on the type of dealing machine, how it is to be used, and the need for it to be stationary occurred.

**MOTION** by Jo Britt

Move to proceed with Bob Fiorendino gathering donations to purchase a dealing machine for Unit 225 to be used by any Unit.

Seconded and carried without dissent.

Jo Britt discussed the timeline in the bylaws of the Annual Meeting where members of Unit 225 vote on a slate of directors that represents all of Unit 225 members as fairly as possible. The slate needs to be reported to the board at the July meeting by a Nominating Committee having a structure as outlined in the bylaws. Then notice needs to be sent to the entire membership of Unit 225. Discussion on length of term left for current board members occurred. Bob and Jo will go through minutes for the last several years to determine who each of the current board replaced. Discussion also noted that the bylaws were not clear as to eligible time left if one came on the board due to a resignation.

**MOTION** by Jo Britt

Move for Bob Fiorendino to head the Nominating Committee and find two members not on the board to prepare the slate of directors.

Seconded and carried without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Jo Britt

**East Texas Bridge Association**  
**ACBL Unit 225**  
**July 12, 2025**  
**Tyler Senior Center, Tyler, Texas**

**Agenda items for July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

1. Review and motion to approve the June minutes
2. Review and motion to approve the June Treasurers' Report
3. Review up-to-date Board Member Chart
4. Motion to correct August 12, 2023 minutes
5. Motion to approve secret ballot for the board member's election
6. ~~Motion to approve annual meeting notice~~
7. Report from Sandy O'Bannon on the 2025 Tournament of Roses
8. Any other new business?

Treasurer Linda Gurasich called the regular Unit 225 Board of Directors meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at the Tyler Senior Center in Tyler, Texas. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

**Present:** Linda Gurasich, Jo Britt, Elaine Dorsey, Deb Pascoe, and Mary Bartley. Robert Fiorendino and Brenda Williams attended by phone.

**MOTION** by Linda Gurasich

Move to approve the minutes of June 14, 2025 meeting as emailed.

Seconded and carried without dissent.

**MOTION** by Jo Britt

Move to approve the June treasurer's report as emailed.

Seconded and carried without dissent.

General discussion surrounding the up-to-date Board Member Chart occurred. Explanation of how it was constructed was detailed by Jo Britt. It involved going through 5 ½ years of minutes from the time that the by-laws were changed and the twelve (12) board members was reduced to nine (9) board members. Linda Gurasich added that this chart needed to be kept up-to-date and handed down to each new board.

An explanation of the proposed new voting format to include all the club's active membership was given by Jo Britt. This included the proposed slate of potential candidates from the nominating committee, the voting ballot page selecting three (3) candidates in ink and signature page for one time only voting to be held at each club coordinated by the club directors. Security of the ballots was explained. It was discussed that an asterisk on the ballot by the current board members' names who are eligible for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term would provide a skewed ballot. It was noted that those eligible for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term are listed in the Annual Notice and a sentence stating they are eligible for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term is italicized. An explanation of how the order of names on the ballot was given.

**MOTION by Deb Pascoe**

Move to approve the Unit 225 Annual Meeting election of three (3) new board members be held at each club in Unit 225 active membership by secret ballot and for attendees at the annual meeting.

Seconded and approved without dissent.

General discussion of the Notice of August 16, 2025 Annual Meeting was held. Jo Britt noted that this had to be sent to all clubs Monday. Deb Pascoe suggested that the Annual Notice include "distributed by email" to the active membership. She suggested emailing Jean Roach for the Canton club distribution.

**MOTION by Linda Gurasich**

Move to accept the 2025 Annual Notice with the additional wording as noted in the discussion.

Seconded and passed without dissent.

Sandy O'Bannon addressed the board on the budget for the 2025 Tournament of Roses scheduled for August 7 – 9. She noted that we were going to lose money. Several explanations were given for the tournament budget she provided the board. She also discussed that the unit had this money and it should be for the enjoyment of members even at a loss. Deb Pascoe brought up that she had learned some things about revenue with a 501C3.

Discussion occurred for a tree memorial for Suzanne Birdwell. Jo Britt noted in the Standing Rules that the upper limit was \$100. Elaine Dorsey noted that the tree memorials were handled by Audubon. Jo Britt and Deb Pascoe offered to make up any difference if it went over \$100.

**MOTION by Linda Gurasich**

Move to provide a tree memorial for Suzanne Birdwell in keeping with the family wishes.

Seconded and carried without dissent.

General discussion occurred about the unit subsidizing the \$15 lunch by the hotel at \$5, \$3, or \$2 as requested by Sandy O'Bannon for the 2025 Tournament of Roses. It was noted the Unit subsidized the lunch at \$5 last year. Deb Pascoe noted even numbers such as charging participants \$10 will be easier.

**MOTION by Jo Britt**

Move to subsidize the lunch at \$5 for the 2025 Tournament of Roses.

Seconded and carried without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.  
Minutes submitted by Secretary, Jo Britt