

UNIT 533 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting April 6, 2017
Minutes

1. Call to Order – President Stine called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, Thursday, April 6, 12017 at the Duncan Bridge Center, Palm Desert, CA.
2. Directors present included President William Stine, Vice President Susan Tracey, Secretary Sara Corey, Treasurer Bill Dani, Asst. Treasurer Shirley Gibson, Sandy Hertz, Jane Witous and Nancy Lodge (who arrived at 10:00AM). Ms. Corey noted that a quorum of Directors was present to be able to conduct the business of the Board.
3. Recognition of Any Members and Guests –Members of the Unit in attendance included: Beverly Hartin and Nancy Erickson. Invited guests included John Tracey, Recording Secretary and Scott Magged, Tournament Manager. Ms. Hartin discussed the 2018 Sun and Fun Spring Sectional Contract with the Coachella Valley Bridge Foundation. She stated that the CVBF expects the Unit Board and the CVBF to negotiate the contract fairly, recognizing the real costs of the Unit to hold the Sectional, and the real costs for CVBF in acting as the host of the event. Mr. Magged asked why CVBF should expect the Unit to share the costs of alternative facilities. Ms. Tracey noted that she and Mr. Hertz had attempted to be fair in the analysis, and feel comfortable with the \$10 per table “rent” charge for the 2017 Fall Harvest Sectional. The original intent was to have two contracts including the 2018 Sun and Fun Spring Sectional at a slight increase in cost over the Fall Harvest Sectional contract, but that the CBVF and the Unit Board will look at the actual costs of the recent Sun and Fun Sectional held at the Pavilion to make certain the 2018 contract is fair to all concerned. Mr. Dani expressed concern about the ability of the DBC facility to meet the needs of a large Sectional. Ms. Tracey asked how many participants were at the Spring Sectional in February, held at the Pavilion, and whether there should be concern for the size of the facility. She noted that cost should not be the only issue. What is the best for the members of the Unit and CVFB’s mission to serve the population with an attractive place to play our game? Ms. Hartin suggested that the CVBF and Unit Board should do another potluck in May to continue the conversations about what is best for Bridge in the Valley. She expressed appreciation for the Mixer that was held in 2016.
4. March Minutes: Mr. Hertz moved, seconded by Ms. Corey, that the modified minutes for the March 9 meeting be approved as written. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tracey will forward an electronic copy of the minutes to Mr. Mac Becket for posting on the Unit’s website.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Feb and March 2017 – Mr. Dani, Treasurer presented the financial reports for February and March. The cash position of the Unit shows a balance of \$32,625.35. Mr. Dani presented the budget through February, which shows the Unit is operating in a surplus position. Mr. Dani noted that the Unit gets paid roughly \$4,000 per year from the membership dues. He noted that new signing cards need to be executed to add Shirley Gibson and Susan Tracey as authorized signers. Ms. Tracey noted that there are two subsidized 4 week “Beginner Lessons” scheduled for June and next fall. The Unit will continue to provide a cake (or two depending on number of players) to future “Unit” games at Duncan, Cathedral City Joslyn Senior Center, and Palm Springs. Mr. Hertz moved, seconded by Ms. Wilkinson that the Treasurers report be approved. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Website Status- Ms. Erickson reported the following:
 - a. All minutes have been posted to the website, except the Annual Meeting from January 21, 2017, and the March meeting.

- b. Mr. Becket needs pictures of the award winners from the Unit so they can be posted to the website. Mr. Stine suggested Mr. Becket should create “virtual” awards to go with the pictures.
 - c. Clubs should report to Mr. Becket regarding their Summer Play calendars so they can be posted on the Website.
 - d. For the Fall Harvest Sectional, the Unit needs an ad to take to the San Diego tournament to advertise the dates and play schedule. It would be great to include the District Regional in December, the February Spring Sectional and the Non-Life Master Sectional in a single ad. Mr. Magged will work on the ad(s).
 - e. Ms. Erickson presented a summary of the “hits” to the website for January through March.
7. Education Committee Report – Mss. Corey and Tracey reviewed the subsidized Beginner Classes to be held in June and probably October. Mr. Mick Riccio will run the twice a week classes over 4 weeks in June. Mr. David Goetz is working on his ACBL teacher certification to be able to run the October classes. Mr. Stine confirmed the appointment of Ms. Corey as the Education Chair for the Unit.
8. Education- Ms. Nancy Lodge joined the meeting at 9:50 AM. She suggested “Bridge in a Day” program during the Palm Springs Regional. She noted that the program starts from a very basic description of cards, play, and rudimentary bridge terms and conventions. The objective is to get a “newbie” that takes the 4-hour lesson to be able to play basic bridge by the end of the day. Ms. Patti Tucker is a nationally known teacher that will be teaching at the San Diego National Tournament, which occurs a couple of weeks before our Regional. Ms. Lodge suggested holding 3 sessions (DBC, Cathedral City or Palm Springs, and Joslyn), at a cost of \$1,000 each to be paid for by the Unit. By holding the classes right after the NABC, we would avoid many of the transportation costs associated with Ms. Tucker’s travel. She noted that it does require assistance from knowledgeable players at each one of the tables in the lesson to assist the table in playing and understanding the game. The objective is to grow the game in the Valley. Action items:
- a. Get dates and locations
 - b. Should the Unit pay for a local teacher to be certified to teach the program?
 - c. What subsidy should Unit 533 offer?
 - d. Need advertising material ASAP
- Ms. Corey will be responsible for reviewing the options and developing a plan. Local Clubs should be involved in the advertising and perhaps as part of the program providing assistance at the tables of newbies. Ms. Tracey asked how the Unit can use the dollars in the Unit’s Treasury as effectively as possible.
9. Harvest Sectional –Ms. Tracey and Mr. Hertz reported on the proposed contract with CVBF for the Fall Harvest Sectional to be considered in Executive Session.
10. NLM Regional – Ms. Lodge and Mr. Magged led a discussion of the Non-Life Master Regional to be held January 18-21. Barbara Gibson has agreed to be Co Chair with Scott Magged. The Sanction has been obtained. Mr. David Lodge, Treasurer of District 22 is working on a joint venture contract to allow the Unit to run the Regional and share in the revenue. The District is studying an increase in the card fees to \$14. With the San Diego Regional coming up, it would be great to have a single advertising piece showing all four tournaments. Ms. Erickson mentioned the use of a bookmark with the logos and dates of the four tournaments as a handout to all at the next tournament, which the District should help pay for the printing costs. Mr. Magged will work on the advertising piece as well as the bookmark. We should be able to get help with the cost of the advertising from District 22.

11. Notification Updates to Club Owners/Directors – Ms. Erickson noted that the Secretary (Ms. Corey) needs to send an email to the Unit’s directors that a board meeting was held and whether there were any topics affecting the directors or their games within 24 hours after the meeting. A typical message would include STaC and/or Unit Game dates. Ms. Lodge volunteered to have another dinner at her home to entertain directors of the unit and discuss plans for the new “season”. Ms. Tracey will take on the responsibility of communicating with the Directors. Board should discuss what items are to be communicated. “The Directors are in our thoughts and we love you.” Ms. Lodge will host another “Town Hall” dinner with the directors in the spring. It was a very popular event last year.
12. March 23 Unit-Wide Game Report – Mr. Magged reported that the development of the Unit wide game stats was relatively easy with the help of Arlene Harvey, District 22 head Director. Mr. Stine noted that Jamie Alperin is aware and understands that his 499-game does not qualify as a “Unit-wide Game”. The ACBL rules would require a minimum of 3 separate games run for a limited field to qualify. Mr. Alperin will continue to run it as a “unit game”, but as a single unit with additional Master Points available, but not as many as would be available for multiple games. May 22nd is the next Unit-wide game.
13. April Awards Ceremony & Unit Game – Mr. Stine noted that Ms. Witous is the designated Awards Chairman. She was not present for the Unit Game/Annual Meeting at the Duncan Bridge Center. Ms. Erickson volunteered to distribute the remaining awards to members that were absent from the meeting, as well as get pictures of the winners to be posted on the website. Mr. Magged passed out a summary of the financial position of the game. He noted that the food cost was \$6.23 per head, which, while the food was good, was way over the budget for the expense. The net loss of the tournament was \$608. Mr. Dani expressed appreciation for Ms. Gibson’s assistance with money collection for the event.
14. Report on Limited Sectional – Mr. Stine reported that he had contacted Mr. Kevin Hill, Sectional Manager at ACBL to discuss the rules relative to the use of ACBL Directors versus the use of local directors at a substantially lower cost. A Non-Life Master (NLM) Sectional can use local directors if the participation is limited to participants with less than 500 Master Points. If the sectional is limited to those with less than 750 MP’s, then ACBL directors must be used. It is the group of participants with 500-750 MP that creates the problem. The Board felt that there are so few members in that category, that the limit of 499 would be fine.
15. Committee Chairs Assignments remaining – Mr. Stine reported on the following:
 - a. Committee Chair Status – Mr. Stine will approach Mr. Mac Becket to be the Communications Chair.
 - b. Tournament Committee (Coordinator) – Mr. Magged is the Tournament Manager under contract to provide certain services. Ms. Tracey noted that the Unit’s By-laws specifically require the Tournament Coordinator to be a Board Member. Mr. Stine said that he would be the Tournament Coordinator working with Mr. Magged to set up and run future tournaments. Ms. Lodge said that she did not believe the Tournament Coordinator must be a Board Member.
 - c. Membership Committee – This is a required committee chaired by a Board Member. Ms. Witous is currently listed as the Chair.
 - d. Unit Game Coordinator – Mr. Stine will ask Daryl Hendershot to take on the responsibilities.
 - e. Disciplinary & Ethics Committee Chair – Mr. Stine has confirmed that Mr. Dick Prochnow will continue to serve in this capacity. Mr. Stine noted that Mr. Hertz is the Discipline Recorder, who acts as the prosecutor referring violations to the Disciplinary Committee for action. He does not participate as a member of the committee.

- f. Election Committee – Runs the election and reports the results. This has been run by Mr. Ron Erickson using the specific requirements in the By-Laws. Mr. Stine will ask if he is willing to continue. He noted that Board members may not serve on the committee.
- g. Nominating Committee – The Committee is not currently operational. Mr. Stine requested a postponement in any appointments to the committee.
- h. Communications Committee – This is another committee required by the By-laws and must be chaired by a Board member. This is not currently assigned.
- i. I/N Newcomer Coordinator - Currently unassigned.
- j. Hospitality Committee – Ms. Wilkinson will ask Carol McConnell if she has an interest in chairing the committee.
- k. Publicity Chair – Ask Barbara Maniscalco or Alex McCune or Carol McConnell. Any people that are involved in advertising. Carol will ask Sue Bloom if she would be interested. Ask about both for interest in Hospitality as well.
- l. STaC Coordinator – Needs to be assigned. Ms. Wilkinson will discuss with Daryl Hendershot.
- m. GNT Coordinator – David Lodge.
- n. Ms. Lodge will change the designations on the website.

New Business

1. Unauthorized Survey of Sun & Fun Sectional - Mr. Stine discussed the unauthorized survey of members of the Unit. Board members reported seeing the survey and receiving a summary of the results. Ms. Lodge requested to be responsible for researching the issue of the source of the survey. Ms. Lodge and Erickson noted that the individual had access to the Unit's email address list, which is not available to the public. When the email came out, it included a return open notice that included the members name and ACBL number. The person used a fictitious email address attributed to the Unit. Ms. Lodge would like to see a copy of the questions, and the reported survey results.
2. Unit Game Cakes – Mr. Stine asked for volunteers to deliver cakes to the Unit games to be held on Saturday, April 22. Ms. Wilkinson will deliver a cake to DBC. Mr. Stine will deliver a cake to Cathedral City.
The next Unit Game is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3. Mr. Stine will deliver a cake to the game at Joslyn. Ms. Tracey will deliver a cake to the Cathedral City game, and Ms. Lodge will deliver a cake to DBC. Ms. Wilkinson will buy one cake and cookies to provide more variety.

Next Meeting – Scheduled for Thursday, May 4 at 9:00 AM at Duncan Bridge Center

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted
John Tracey, Recording Secretary