

Unit Board Meeting: February 10, 2021 (Held via Zoom)

Board Members Present:

Sandy Hertz  
Vicki Graves  
BJ Moses  
Anne Lund  
Bonnie Sipkins  
Diane Jobin  
Paola Cohan  
Bill Dani

Absent: Joy Barron

### **Meeting Minutes**

Sandy Hertz called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. He stepped down as President and thanked everyone for their service. There was a big round of applause for Sandy for his many contributions as President the last two years.

Sandy welcomed recently elected Board Members Diane Jobin and BJ Moses. He also welcomed Vicki Graves who had been appointed to the Board to replace Sigi Braverman who is remaining in Europe with her family due to the pandemic. He also announced that Georgia Jones has resigned as she has other volunteer obligations. Therefore, there is now a vacancy to fill.

The main purpose of today's meeting is the Election of Officers for the 2021-2022. Sandy presented and moved to approve his recommended slate of candidates: President-Vicki Graves, Vice President-Anne Lund, Secretary-Bonnie Sipkins, and Treasurer-Bill Dani. BJ seconded the motion and the slate was approved.

Vicki encouraged all board members to review our Bylaws, Recent Board Meeting Minutes, and our Financials as stored on our ACBL Unit 533 website. She highlighted the mission of the Unit Board in our Bylaws, noting that we may have to adapt the way we have supported bridge in our desert

even after the COVID Pandemic has ended. She referenced the comments by the ACBL President in the last ACBL Bulletin...i.e. her statement that half of the overall ACBL members are not playing bridge online but those who play are playing more than ever. She also had said the future of many Regionals and Sectionals is also in financial question.

Bill Dani reviewed the Unit Financials as of the end of 2020 as shown on the Unit Website. The main source of revenue was our share of membership fees that unit members paid to ACBL. Last year that amount was \$4000. The \$1100 in Unit Game Income was offset by associated expenses. In prior years, the unit has had sectional income which in some instances exceeded sectional expenses. Bill noted the larger expense items and highlighted the storage unit, which costs \$1400 a year and houses our tables, bidding boards and boxes—adding that possibly we can find a less expensive location before that lease renews in August. Bottom line: the unit spent \$2270 more than we took in last year. We have \$21,000 in our bank account.

This is the time of year for budget preparation, but Bill said it is difficult to know what our activities will be in 2021. All board member received by email a one-page budget projection document showing the estimated monthly line items.

Bill noted that we need new authorized board members to sign checks for the unit. He recommended Vicki Graves, Anne Lund and Bill Dani and noted they would have to meet to authorize their signatures at the Bank of America in Palm Desert. A motion was made by Sandy Hertz authorizing these individuals as signees. Diane Jobin seconded the motion, and it passed.

This Sunday, February 14, 2021, is a Valentine's Day Unit Game. This is offered as a playing venue to our players. Mac Becket has sent an email blast to promote the game, and Sandy encouraged all board members to play. Paola suggested that the 0-750 game was too high to attract beginning players.

Sandy reported on our WIN account which holds \$15,000. Tickets for free play are given to top MP point winners in the unit each 6 months in both the 0-299 and 0-499 categories to encourage them to keep playing at our clubs. The program is on hold now due to the pandemic.

Anne Lund gave an overview of the Board's education program. In the past, the unit has given some reimbursement (\$2000 in total in 2020) to certified approved teachers who offer beginning bridge classes. Anne has worked to enhance the program to insure a continuation of bridge lesson to club play. Diane Jobin will work as an understudy to Anne to learn more about this program. She is already involved as a mentor for new students.

Vicki noted that the most immediate issue facing the board today was the annual awards as they are usually given out in April at our awards meeting and that was not going to happen. We can mail out the Ace of Clubs certificates but the Mini-McKenney medallions might be more problematic. There was a discussion about options to the medallions. Vicki and BJ will recommend a process for award distribution. It is assumed that no local awards will be given for 2020 given that there were no tournaments or club play.

Paola did not have current Unit 533 membership numbers to report. (Subsequent to the meeting it was noted that we have 972.) Vicki said that she believed that we are the largest single unit in District 22.

Vicki said that we needed to assure that responsibility for all board functions is assigned and that the processes for each function are stored electronically for transition purposes. Sandy mentioned that he had five binders applicable to board functions (Awards, Unit Organizing, Nominating Committee, New Board Members, History of Unit) Subsequent to the meeting, Vicki determined that additional electronic handbooks can be viewed at <https://www.acbl.org/helpfuldocuments/>. (Those there: Tournament Planning (3), Unit President (officer functions/board set up), Unit I/N coordinator, Unit Game Coordinator, Unit Education Liaison, & Unit Bridge Mentoring.)

Another current focus is the need to replace Georgia on the Board. Vicki asked each member to consider people that they might know. She noted

that she thinks it's important that the board consist of people with differing perspectives (new player, expert player for example) so that might mean we should particularly look for male candidates to replace Georgia if at all possible!

In 2020, the Board did not meet after March, but board decisions were made via email vote. Bonnie agreed to check with Georgia who was the Secretary last year in an effort to accumulate these board votes into a document that can be posted as a summary type Minutes for that period.

Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined that the next meeting will be via a Zoom call at **10am on Wednesday March 10, 2021**. Vicki will send out the link.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bonnie Sipkins, Secretary