

UNIT 533 BOARD MEETING – 1/16/25

Board Members Present:

Ann Carter
Vicki Graves
Sue Blom
Diana Seeb
Deann Young
Barb Wegener
Treasurer: Bill Dani
Guest: Sean Lui

Board Members Absent:

Nancy Beckerman
Christine Andrews
Kathy Kroll

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am at the Duncan Bridge Center. The minutes from the prior Board meeting had been approved electronically. Also prior to the meeting, Vicki advised the Board that Nancy Beckerman said that, due to health issues, she could not participate in board functions and would not seek re-election in March.

FINANCIALS:

Bill reviewed his preliminary report of 2024 Actuals (sans some expenses from the Holiday Party). Revenues were higher because of increased membership income and higher income from sectionals. Expenses were up because of education reimbursements and the NAP stipends paid. Our net surplus will be approximately \$2700, which is slightly less than last year.

NLM SECTIONAL January 10-11, 2025:

Bill reported we had 70 tables as compared to 72 last year and his budget of 80. The net surplus was \$1360 which will be split with the CVBF. This compares to \$1734 in 2024.

Vicki said the Friday 0-99 game had only three table and was problematic from several perspectives so we won't include this game in our Sun & Fun sectional. We gave away 11 free plays at the Saturday morning session to

0-20 players—possibly this had a positive impact because there were 3.5 more tables that session than in 2024. We also had 5 players attend who had lapsed their ACBL memberships. Three said they would renew their membership. The food et all were well done thanks to Kathy, Christine and the others who helped.

SUN & FUN SECTIONAL: February 14-15, 2025

Bill presented a draft budget for this sectional which reflects a decrease in profit because of increased Director's fees and hotel costs. Vicki said she thought the table fee from 2024 was 171.5 including the 0-20 game. After much discussion about the low participation in the 0-750 team games it was agreed that the best solution would be to ask the DIC, Brandon, if we could run bracketed team games. Vicki will check with him.

Sue will line up the food and volunteers for the event. She said John Kubisty would help with food. We will need caddies for both afternoons. Bill will caddy on Saturday and Sean will ask Laura from Xavier to caddy on Friday. We would like Guaranteed Partners to be available and Vicki volunteered for Friday AM, Ann for Friday PM, Vicki & Deann for Saturday AM and Diana for Saturday PM. We still need Limited player fill-ins.

OTHER tournament updates:

During Bronia Jenkins' Unit Presidents call this week, Vicki said she had voiced concerns about the ACBL Silver Linings week taking place which offered silver points for \$6. It was noted these such competing events make it difficult to draw people to Tournaments which is a reported priority for ACBL.

Bronia said that ACBL would be offering a day or two of Bracketed Pairs games at selected regionals this year. This is an effort to capture those people with 760 points who now have to play against much higher-level players. Vicki commented that if this kind of event became available for Sectionals we'd no longer have to split between Limited and Open games as you'd play only against others in your MP bracket.

AWARDS: March 16, 2025

The prep work needs to begin in January as the Mini-McKenny medallions need to be ordered from Baron Barclay. Ann said she did not know how to do this and Vicki said she would help her. We'll also need to get a plaque on the large Barbara Sonsini trophy to recognize the Limited MP winner at the Regional (David Combs). The Ace of Clubs certificates will be mailed from ACBL. Vicki noted that last year Rob sent texts or emails to each winner inviting them to the Awards Celebration and that worked well. The Board selected Guy Brackett to be its Volunteer of the Year.

ELECTIONS: March 16, 2025

The terms of Barb, Deann and Nancy are up for re-election. Diana reported that the criteria of being a board member should consider the following: comfortable using computers, organization skills, communication skills, and a willingness to help preparing for and running our three tournaments and two events each year. The proposed updates to our By-laws will be posted to the Unit website by the end of January (45 days before the election). Vicki said we have identified one candidate to date.

Diana and Ann will organize a lunch to be served at the March 16 event.

EDUCATION:

Deann reviewed some proposed changes to our teacher reimbursement processes because some new teaching approaches are offering four session Introductions to Bridge. These should not receive the same per student amount as an eight-session class. She proposed a reimbursement plan of \$50 per student for a 16 hour course, \$37.50 for a 12 hour course and \$25 per student for an 8 hour course—all up to a limit of 20 students. The proposal was approved.

Vicki reported that, of the 42 discounted membership (\$30 off) offers we had sent out in December, only four had acted upon the offer and one was not in the Coachella Valley. Nancy had agreed to call a few of them to see what thoughts they'd had regarding the offer. A reminder was sent this last week as well with no additional responses to date. Deann agreed to approach Mick & Randy to see how they present ACBL memberships (why join) and seek other inputs from them as to how we should encourage membership in ACBL.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 am on Thursday, February 20 at DBC.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55AM.

Submitted by Barbara Wegener