

MINUTES OF UNIT 533 BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President, Vicki Graves, at 10:30 a.m.

Board Members Attending:

Scott Coleman
David Combs
Vicki Graves
Martha Hancock
Denyse Raskin
Diana Seeb
Bill Dani, Treasurer

Guest Attending:

Guy Bracket, CVBF President
Sean Lui, DBC Managing Director

Board Members Absent:

Kathy Kroll

Prior to this Meeting:

The Minutes of the November 20, 2025 Board meeting were previously approved by the Board electronically.

Sue Blom resigned from the board due to personal issues. (As previously announced, Cornelia Gould moved to replace David Lodge on the national board beginning in 2026 and can no longer serve on the Unit Board.)

Discussion:

Bill covered the 2025 EOY Financials which reflected a surplus of \$3466. At year end the Unit holds \$30,298 in its operating account and \$11,961 in its WIN account. The December Holiday Party drew 27 tables as compared to 20 the year before and the barbecue was well received. Bill noted that he viewed financial 'losses' at this type of event as part of the Unit's give back to its members.

The NLM Sectional January 9 & 10 recorded a net profit of \$1990 which is split between the Unit and CVBF. There were 84 tables as compared to 70 in 2025 and player feedback has been very favorable. Split by session, there were 23.5 tables each of the two sessions on Friday (47),

18.5 Saturday AM and 19 Saturday PM (27.5). Denyse said that next year we needed to better advertise that it was a cash only event as that had been unexpected to the players. A discussion about taking credit cards ensued. Bill said the negatives to the Unit were the card fees and the equipment required given just 2-3 events a year. Guy said he thought that he could set up a separate unit account on the CVBF card account/devices. Scott said he would check with Dave White as to how this could be done and a 'trial' of the credit card process would be a consideration for the March 22 Awards/Election game.

Vicki said she'd heard just before Christmas that there is a Grassroots designation we can add to two sessions at an Open Sectional. For \$1 more per person, a 28% bump in silver masterpoints would be awarded to each player! The Unit can choose to 'eat' the extra dollar charge or raise the player fee for the two sessions. She said she recommended that we make this designation for each session on Friday, 2/13 at the Sun & Fun Sectional and absorb the cost—noting that the extra dollars go to District 22 to fund GNT & NAP competitions which also benefit our players. All agreed to do this. This will be advertised via a Pianola blast this weekend.

Scott said that John Kubisty had agreed to help organize food for the Sun & Fun and Denyse said there was some left from the NLM that could be used. Sean said that he did not believe we would need caddies for a Bracketed Teams event and, given input from Dave White, he did not think we could use duplicated boards or bridge mates for Bracketed Teams.

The March 22 Awards/Elections event was discussed. Martha will handle the Awards presentations and Diana is handling the board elections. Lunch plans have not been finalized at this time. The board agreed that we would select Barbara Wegener for our Volunteer of the Year award. The board again tabled the discussion of an NABC sponsorship for 2026.

Diana said that three board positions were up for re-election: hers, Kathy's, and Ann Carter's position. She said that our Bylaws change in 2026 provided an option to have 7-9 positions on the board rather than "always" 9 but she wanted at least two candidates. Diana said she would not seek re-election but she thought Kathy might and she had one other candidate. The first call for candidates had been issued in the January newsletter and posted to the Unit website. If the number of candidates does not exceed the number of positions, no elections will need to be held (also a new provision of the Bylaws).

Vicki reported that the Unit's membership was 766 at the end of 2025 as compared to 820 in 12/24 and 825 in 12/23. She said some of the decrease might be attributed to ACBL's purge of Life Members who had been inactive for a number of years (unknown count) and also to ACBL's midyear decision to make all new members guest members and so not part of the unit. She said we had 26 guest members at the end of 2025 so the 766 might otherwise be 792—better but still a significant drop. ACBL is encouraging the Unit's to find ways to motivate guest members to convert to full memberships—and points to glitter points and the ACBL Bulletin as perks to motivate. Vicki said she'd advised Bronia Jenkins (ACBL's Executive Director) that she had sent approximately 20 emails to guest members in early December offering to pay the \$29 fee

each would have incurred to be a full member and not one person had responded. Still, Vicki asked the board to consider retaining our free first year full membership offer in 2026 as it was an offer that might motivate. Denyse seconded the motion and all approved. Ideas such as more focus on our new bridge students, community centers, and country clubs as a way to increase our membership will be discussed again at our next meeting.

David said he had not yet received the list of attendees at Mick's Beginning Bridge Classes for purposes of a grant for him but would continue to follow-up. He will also revise the Education Processes to consider ongoing classes and potentially some sort of connection to membership for consideration at the next Board Meeting.

Vicki reported that in 2019 the Board had voted to give \$300 each to each unit member who won the district level GNT or NAP competitions and then chose to go to the NABC level competition. This vote had been motivated by the D22 decision to rescind their compensation for winners and the consideration of how much the player has to pay to travel to the NABC. However, in late 2025, D22 voted to reimplement stipends for the district winners. Given that, Vicki recommended that the Unit no longer pay the \$300 stipend per player for our GNT and NAP winners and the Board approved this recommendation.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5 at 10:30AM at DBC.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.

V.Graves