

UNIT 533 BOARD MEETING MARCH 11, 2022

Board Members:

Chip Graves
Vicki Graves
Linda Hahn
Diane Jobin
Rob Martin
Bonnie Sipkins
Barb Wegener
Deann Young
Sandy Young

Treasurer: Bill Dani

Minutes from the February 11, 2022, meeting were approved by electronic vote before the meeting.

Today's meeting was called to order by President Vicki Graves at 8:30 a.m.

FINANCIALS

Bill reported there has been no activity since the last board meeting. From a budget perspective, he added expenses for our unit games at clubs and added costs for the March 27 awards game. He is projecting a \$100 loss but with more tables, it could change it to a positive number. Bill said we should reimburse Vicki for the cost of Zoom for our meetings (approximately \$100). Diane made the motion, Chip seconded, and it was approved.

MARCH 27 AWARDS GAME

Vicki asked again that everyone invite friends to attend. For lunch, it was determined we would serve varying salads and breads and Bonnie and Diane will purchase these for the game. Sandy will purchase a cake (or 2) with *congratulations* written on it as it is an awards game. Lunch should be ready to serve by noon, awards will be presented at 12:45 pm and the game is at 1pm. Rob will invite all award winners to attend. Vicki will send out an e-mail blast to attend the game and party. As a reminder, this game is part of the Royal STaC in California and offers gold, red, silver and black MPs.

FALL SECTIONAL

At our last meeting we discussed a possible STaC in November. Linda had determined however that we currently have a sanction for a full sectional November 11-12, 2022. Historically the Unit has offered 2 sectionals a year— November and February. These tournaments are to the benefit of our membership and have traditionally made money for the Unit as well. The table counts and financials for past fall sectionals (2014-2019) were reviewed with a discussion of the varying fixed costs inherent in a tournament.

After much conversation, it was agreed that Vicki would contact the CVBF to see if they would be interested in hosting this and, if so, what type of contract they would offer. A decision as to whether to proceed with the event will be made at our next meeting.

UNIT GAMES UPDATE

We had our first 2022 game on March 7 with 36 tables and a top MP award of 8 masterpoints. At these games, the Unit pays the extra \$1.25 per table sanction fee for the clubs. Vicki said that in past years, the Unit would provide cakes at each game location or offer free play drawings—all to draw attention to the fact that the unit was sponsoring these games. We will look at what visibility we can obtain in the future to let members know that the unit is sponsoring the game. Barb is scheduling future games and March 18 and April 6, 18 & 29 are planned. We can do 24 such games a year.

GENERAL CALENDAR OF BOARD TO DO'S

Vicki sent this out to board members. It is a planning tool which is especially helpful when there is a change of board members. It was noted that much of the Board's work is done in the fall and spring.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

The unit is at 879 at the end of February and it is normal that our numbers begin to decrease as our snowbirds leave. As a revenue source, Diane asked whether we should ask our snowbirds to become members while in the desert. Vicki said that wouldn't hurt but it's a complicated communication. One's annual membership is not pro-rated between clubs if he splits his time in two locations—it is all paid to the unit where the person resides when his annual membership fee is paid. Sandy has assumed responsibility for membership, and we'll continue to look at this issue.

EDUCATION

As a follow-up to last month's discussion, Diane reported that she had attended the District's first Education Meeting looking at ways to leverage education to grow our membership numbers. There was discussion about classes, follow-ups with supervised play, and Pro-Am games. At the next meeting more ideas will be pursued.

Bill mentioned that there had been a unit game in the past in this Pro-Am format and it had drawn 25-30 tables. Deann played in it as a new player, and it was a very positive experience. Vicki said we might consider this for the fall as an option for one of our Unit Games.

Diane also reported that she had not yet had time to reach out to Mick about using some of our Education Funds for his Beginning Bridge classes but she will before the next meeting.

OTHER

Vicki got an email from the District President asking us to select a local charity to be supported by the PSP Regional's proceeds from the Monday evening charity game. It was determined

that we would recommend the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. Diane cautioned that this did not generate a lot of money for the charity—i.e., when she had recommended the Assistance League in 2019, they had received approximately \$100 as the Regional's local beneficiary.

Board members are entitled to a name tag. Vicki asked that anyone who would like one/wear one should let Bonnie know and she can order them. Bill will reimburse the costs. The benefit of the name tag is a recognition of our roles and as a source for questions!

NEXT MEETING

We talked about meeting in person in April as Duncan has offered us the use of their facility. The consensus was that an in-person board meeting at least periodically would be beneficial. The meeting will be held at Duncan on Friday, April 8 at 10am.

Bonnie moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45am, and Diane seconded the motion.

Respectively submitted,

Bonnie Sipkins, Secretary