

MINUTES OF UNIT 533 BOARD MEETING

MARCH 5, 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
- Kathy Kroll
- Denyse Raskin
- Bill Dani, Treasurer

Guest Attending:

- John Kubisty, Food co-chair for our Sectionals
- Sean Lui, DBC Managing Director

Board Members Absent:

- Diana Seeb

Prior to this Meeting:

The Minutes of the January 15, 2026 Board meeting were approved by the Board electronically.

Discussion:

Bill reviewed the financials from the **Sun & Fun Sectional**. Table counts were 163 (+5 from last year) and the net profit was \$4250 with 50% of that paid to CVBF for the use of their facilities. Director fees were down 27% given the availability of local director Dave White to cover as the 2nd ACBL director on Saturday.

2026 Table counts by session split by Open & 0-750 were (with 2025 noted):

- Friday AM Pairs: 21+17=38 (31 '25)
- Friday PM Pairs: 26+21=47 (38 '25)
- Friday PM Teams: NA in '26 (20 '25)
- Saturday AM Pairs: 12+12=24 (28 '25)
- Saturday PM Pairs: 7+11=18 (19 '25)
- Saturday AM & PM Teams: 18+18=36 (22 in PM '25)

Total Pairs: 127 (48% in 0-750). Total Teams: 36. (In 2025: 116 tables in Pairs and 42 in Teams)

It was agreed that the Grassroots Game Designation for the two sessions Friday had been a success in that the 25% extra MPs were noticeable and the cost (eaten by the Unit below the line) was only \$340. We can do this at both of our open sectionals next season and promote it more effectively as a draw to table counts. A decision as to whether to pass this \$1 additional cost to the players was not finalized.

Given the drop in table counts for team games, the effectiveness of the two session Bracketed Teams event with both sessions on Saturday as compared to single session Swiss teams Friday and Saturday afternoons in the past was discussed. John said his 2025 team did not play because he was not available for both sessions given the later start of sessions in 2026. Conversely, Martha noted that the fairness of competition had been noticeably better than our previous attempts to stratify the team games in the Swiss format. Our decision last year to start the sessions at 9:30 & 2pm this season rather than 9am & 1:30PM as in the past had been based on feedback from out-of-town players that the 9am start impacted their ability to play in the AM sessions. After discussion, it was agreed to revert to 9am & 1:30 pm next season. The idea of using 5-6 person teams to cover the thought that one person might be unavailable was discussed with the assumption that the team cost would be the same. Vicki said she will check this. She also noted that the two-session event on one day did offer increased MPs and had helped reduce the ACBL costs given that we didn't need the per-diem of an extra director both days. The consensus was that we would try the Bracketed Teams again in 2027. *As an addendum: It's the sponsor's decision as to the cost of a team with more than 4 players. We should just put a team cost on the flyer to make it the same regardless!*

The fact that Mick Riccio's presentation time had been negatively impacted by the DIC's last minute decision to start the second team session early was reviewed. David commented that, although he always thought Mick's presentations were excellent, this was not the first tournament at which he'd noted that there wasn't enough time for a presentation. As currently scheduled in the last 30 minutes of the break, players are distracted by a need to get their tickets for the afternoon and if we changed it to the beginning, they would be running to eat. Vicki will talk to Mick about these issues with the idea that we would not schedule presentations.

The final tournament action item was a discussion of the food provided with rave reviews from most all players as to what was provided at no additional cost to them! Kathy noted that there were problematic efforts from club players to dig through cabinets looking for their club game normal snacks. Scott agreed to work on some signage. *As an addendum, Guy suggested we give John a gift certificate for his help with the food at our tournaments, i.e. the Free Plays aren't of benefit to him as he doesn't have much time to play!*

The Awards/Elections/Annual Meeting event has been changed from March 22 to March 15. Martha said the Awards were ready and invitations to the winners had been sent out. Vicki noted that there would be no need for voting for the unit board candidates given that it was an uncontested election. Sid Galton will join the board after the March 15 event and Kathy Kroll will begin a new term! Diana Seeb's term will end. Vicki asked if there were any points to be made in the Annual Meeting segment and Scott suggested she touch on membership challenges. From a food perspective, Vicki said she and David would pick up sandwiches, cake etc. at Costco. She asked for volunteers to be there about 11:15 to help with the setup.

Scott reported that he we could take credit cards using CVBF's software and a personal smart phone as a trial at the March 15 event. It was agreed that we would try it with board members and Denyse said she would print some sort of 'card' to put in the envelope so Bill would know they'd paid. If this works effectively, we'll discuss options to take credit cards at the Holiday Party and at our NLM Sectional!

David presented two proposed modifications to our **Educational Reimbursement** policy. One deals with the promotion of ACBL membership by the teacher and one addresses a reimbursement policy for drop-in courses. With one amendment to stipulate 'full' memberships, the updates to the policy were approved by the board. David said he is still attempting to get data from Mick regarding his Beginning Bridge class so we can reimburse him and will also work with Cookie and Randy. Vicki said that Randy and Cookie's efforts to recruit their students to join ACBL as full members at no charge (given the Unit's \$39 reimbursement from our WIN funds) had resulted in 24 new ACBL members this year!

Denyse suggested that we needed to have sent earlier communication with our players as to the date change of the Awards Meeting and to send more information regarding the GNT competition. Vicki agreed and said she would include information about the GNT competition process in the next newsletter.

The idea that we could contribute to the NABC in San Diego was revisited but the consensus was that we could use the money more effectively elsewhere.

Date options for the next meeting will be communicated via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.

Vicki Graves