

**Unit 533 Board Meeting
May 12, 2021**

Board Members Present:

Joy Barron
Paolo Cohen
Vicki Graves
Sandy Hertz
Keith King
Anne Lund
Bonnie Sipkins

Treasurer Bill Dani

Guests:

Barbara Maniscalco, Unit Representative to the District 22 Board
Beverly Hartin, CVBF
Susan Tracey, CVBF

Vicki called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. The April minutes had been approved via email.

Barbara Maniscalco described the major organizational changes taking place at the national level. The ACBL consists of the Board of Directors, Board of Governors, 23 Districts and the Units. To reduce the size of the national ACBL governing body, district representation will be combined—i.e. District 22 & 23 will have a joint representative.

She reported that the December regional will occur at the Westin Hotel. The ACBL National in Texas is two weeks prior to that, and we will learn from their experience as to the impact of COVID on attendance at tournaments. The Non-Life Master regional for January, 2022, has been cancelled as of this time.

The District 22 website includes a wealth of information, and Barbara stated she hopes to be a resource to us. She also noted that five clubs in District 22 have/are opening for face-to-face bridge.

Beverly Hartin was asked whether the CVBF has plans for face-to-face play, and she said this will be addressed at their June 2 board meeting. Since their club is seasonal they may not choose to re-open before the fall. In response to a question from Bill, Bev indicated that she believed virtual games would continue.

Bev asked board members if there were questions about her March 4 email suggesting several options by which the CVBF would host our 2022 sectional: a revenue share, a guaranteed income proposal or an option by which the CVBF would run the sectional for the unit.

According to Bev, the focus should be what's best for our membership. She believes that a traditional Sectional at a site serves them best as it offers excitement, builds team work, and is a tradition.

Vicki responded that the Board's major focus in considering a Sectional Tournament at the Clubs was to offer more options for our members. She noted that the clubs had long argued that the majority of our members (especially the I/N players) don't attend a tournament, and this format would reward those people with extra points for play in their daily games for a week. For those players who liked an event, the STAC format would allow us to host team events at a site for two days. She added that if Duncan would want to host that team play it would be a great chance to showcase their beautiful new facility. Vicki did note that clubs would make money during a unit STAC format, but that the Unit and the host site would probably not make as much as at an event. Susan added that it wasn't just about money—and all agreed. Bev said in fact that in high season the CVBF might arguably do just as well financially with their regular games.

Barbara said that she and several others from the District thought we should offer both a STAC and a single site tournament as both brought benefits. Bev said the CVBF board might also support both.

Bill said he had run some numbers regarding the CVBF tournament proposals date March 4. The major driver as to profitability will be the table count. Susan said we can't live in fear of moving forward just because of the uncertainties of attendance. She asked if a Sectional at the Clubs fulfills the Unit's requirement to host a sectional, and Vicki said she was told it would...especially in the next year.

Anne mentioned that when she had been Unit president, all the clubs closed when we had a sectional but, since they now do not she believed this has hurt attendance at such events. Bev thought that the first time this had happened was in 2006 when Mick Riccio had continued his club games during a sectional. But, she and Susan added, clubs did have recurring expenses to cover.

Vicki said that the Unit's goal was to work towards the benefit of the members and the clubs. Sandy commented that the board will consider all the alternatives that have been discussed.

CLOSED SESSION

Discussion continued regarding sectionals, and it was agreed that the Board would evaluate holding both a Sectional at Clubs and a Single Site Sectional. No vote was taken at this time.

MEMBERSHIP

Paola reported the Unit's current membership is 837. Of those, 519 members have up to 100 points. She suggested that many players would like lower MP limited games.

Attached is a copy of the welcome letter being sent to new members added to our Unit each month.

FINANCIALS

See Bill's email sent prior to the meeting which provided financial statements.

Bill said there has not been much activity. We won't receive the income from the March virtual game until next year as it is a small amount.

There is \$21,500 in the bank account. The only significant expenditure this year is the storage unit.

Anne brought up the education fund which she understood was totally separate from the regular budget. Bill clarified this by saying that is not the case and that it comes out of our regular budget. The expenditures have not occurred since COVID, however.

STORAGE UNIT:

Vicki, Bill and Diane removed additional items from our 10X10' unit and completed the identification of larger items that can be 'tossed'. A truck will be required to move these items as well as those we keep if we are to find a smaller unit. Currently there isn't a 5X10' unit available at a reasonable price but the effort to find such will continue.

It was noted that, after research and conversation with ACBL, we will keep Unit documents for 3 years, but use judgement as to items that we determine might need a longer retention.

BOARD FUNCTIONS

Vicki recommended that each board member put a bullet point type list of their tasks and the critical dates associated with them. Although the ACBL has online books describing some board responsibilities, this should be a "quick and dirty" one-page list to supplement that or detail duties not described. This will assist new members who join the Unit board. Vicki offered to send out an example to get the ball rolling.

Vicki: Publicity

Anne: Education

Diane: Nominating Committee/Election process

Joy: Unit Games/other special games

Paolo: Membership

Keith: Tournaments

Sandy: WIN/other awards

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Sadly, BJ Moses has resigned from the board as they are moving to Orange County. Board members are encouraged to think of a replacement.

FURTHER BOARD MEETINGS

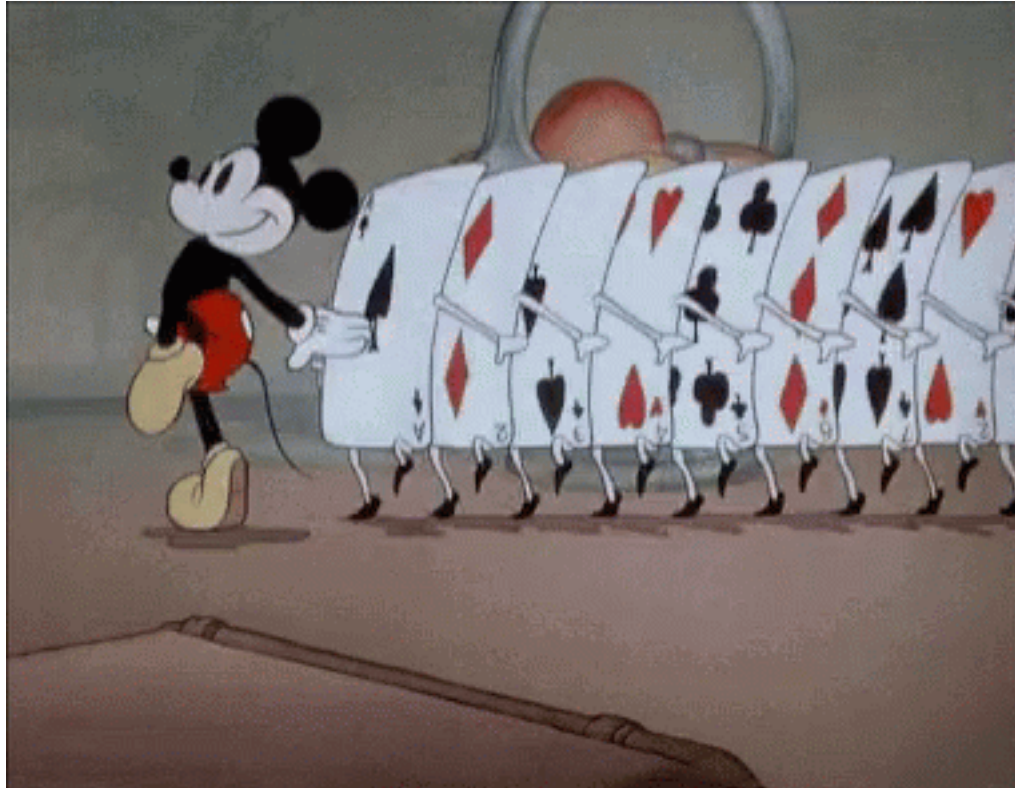
For the summer months we will not set specific meeting dates. As they arise, issues will be addressed via email vote or Zoom meetings.

Bonnie makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Diane seconded the motion at 11:30 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Bonnie Sipkins
Secretary

Also attached is the new member letter.



Via tenor

Hi Harriet!

We're so glad you've joined our bridge community here in the Coachella Valley! As you may already be aware, there are 12 bridge clubs in the desert under the umbrella of ACBL Unit 533. Some of our clubs are by invitation only (i.e. those at a country club) but there are many games available for play every day and for every level of player. Even given COVID, our three virtual clubs offer 60 games a week! We also have educational programs, awards, and events for the almost 1000 duplicate

bridge players who live here



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The Unit 533 website will give you information about all that's happening. You'll see a schedule of games and a link to the clubs as well as an option to sign up for any classes you might enjoy. Just google ACBL Unit 533 or type <https://www.bridge-webs.com/acblunit533>.

***Hopefully soon we'll be able to play face to face bridge again but if you have any questions about how to get involved in bridge here, please call me at
760-564-6224.***

***Vicki Graves
President--Unit 533***