

MINUTES OF
UNIT 533 BOARD MEETING
MAY 15, 2025

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

Board Members Attending:

Vicki Graves
Diana Seeb
Sue Blom
Kathy Kroll
Scott Coleman
David Combs
Cornelia Gould
Bill Dani, Treasurer

Guests Attending:

Guy Brackett, President CVBF
Sean Lui, Club Manager
Ed Gould

Board Member Absent:

Christine Andrews

Prior to this Meeting:

The Minutes of the February 27, 2025 Board meeting were approved by the Board electronically.

Also, the Board voted electronically on March 27, 2025, to approve a grant of \$1,000 to Don Freeland for the Beginning Bridge classes he taught in the first quarter at Marrakesh, Ironwood, The Vintage and El Dorado (approximately 108 students in total). All students were offered our discounted ACBL membership.

On April 30 at a social gathering for the Board, the following were elected as officers for the upcoming year: President-Vicki Graves, Vice-President-Diana Seeb, Secretary-Cornelia Gould & Treasurer-Bill Dani.

Discussion:

Vicki welcomed the new and returning Board Members and introductions were made. She said specific functional responsibilities for the year would be Awards-Sue, Education-David, Elections-

Diana, Publicity-Vicki, and Tournaments-Kathy & Scott. Barb Wegener had volunteered to keep responsibility for scheduling Unit Games even though she is no longer a board member. No decision has been made to date regarding responsibility for hospitality for our December & March events.

Vicki distributed a Board Planning Calendar, which describes dates by which certain tasks should be accomplished during the year. She asked that all Board members put Unit 533 Tournaments and Events on their calendars so that we will all be available to participate and assist. The upcoming tournaments include:

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| November 7-8, 2025: | Harvest Festival Sectional |
| January 9-10, 2026: | Palm Springs NLM Regional |
| February 13-14, 2026: | Sun and Fun Sectional |
| November 6-7, 2026: | Harvest Festival Sectional |

Tentatively, the Holiday Party will be on December 7, 2025 and the Awards/Election event will be March 22, 2026.

Cornelia distributed the District 22 Tournament Calendar. Within the next few weeks, it should be available for viewing on the D22 website. Please let Cornelia know if sanctions are applied for.

Bill distributed the financials. As of March 31, 2025, Unit 533's assets total \$42,379.24. Our Membership reimbursement from the 5/5/5 plan for the 1st quarter was better than that budgeted.

There was discussion of the Win Award account, which holds \$12,020. That account was set up to encourage new players in Unit 533, and to incentivize them to join ACBL. Currently, limited free plays are being offered for players who have taken Beginning Bridge classes, and we are subsidizing the first year ACBL membership dues for these same 'graduates'. The teacher grants are not currently coming from the WIN Fund. There is a separate \$4,000 budget item for this.

The budgetary process was discussed. Currently Bill prepares an annual budget and presents it to the Board for approval. Most of it is automatic. He included budgets for the upcoming Sectionals and NLM. We are trying to minimize the cost of directors at tournaments.

Vicki said that the Board's decision at the last meeting regarding a change to our Tournament start times had to be revisited as ACBL requires a 4 1/2 hour window between session start times. It was agreed that start times for the November Sectional will be 9:30 and 2:00, to give out-of-towners a little more driving time, but also hopefully allow our members to drive home before dark. Sean suggested that we ask ACBL to play only 24 boards in the afternoon sessions and Vicki agreed to do so.

She also said that ACBL had agreed that David White could be the second ACBL director for the February 2026 Sun & Fun tournament afternoon sessions. That will save the additional hotel and per diem expense.

As a follow-up to the Board's discussion in February about a bracketed team event at the November Sectional, Vicki reported that the Director in Charge, Matt Kolnow, had agreed. As a second follow-

up to February's discussion on increasing team game participation, Christine had suggested that we hold a training session on team games for those who haven't played them at all or often. Vicki reported that David White said clubs could offer selected games with 10-20% gold points in October and DBC could run a team game then as could the Unit. He suggested we could host a class before one of them. That could be bracketed, or Eight is Enough, or some other method of making it fair and pleasant for newer players. Ed Gould volunteered to assist in working on these games, and setting up partnerships for this type of event. A date of Sunday, October 5, 2025, has tentatively been set for a team game.

We discussed card fees, which were \$14 at the last tournament. It was agreed that it would remain the same. Offering lunches was discussed. We will try including a light lunch on tournament days and will not charge extra to players.

Vicki suggested that we spend less on flyers. They can be distributed electronically. We don't need to print as many as we have in the past.

Kathy led a discussion of mentoring ideas. She said people coming out of classes are afraid to enter the big room. She will try to get 10-20 people, with up to 199 MP's, to mentor brand new players and try it this summer. It was suggested that an email looking for volunteers be sent out on Pianola but it was agreed that not all personality types are geared to be mentors. Mentors could be given Free Plays —possibly two a month?

Vicki encouraged all of us to invite new players to play. They will be offered Free Plays, as well as be offered discounted first year membership in the ACBL.

The March 2025 Election, lunch and game event was reviewed. There were only 18 tables and only 5 tables were I/N. The potluck did not work out well. Too many desserts; not enough real food. It was decided that the food for this event should be purchased in the future.

The next Board meeting will be held in the fall, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. In the meantime, if measures need to be voted on, we will do so via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Submitted by Cornelia Gould, Secretary

