

MINUTES OF UNIT 533 BOARD MEETING

MAY 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Vicki Graves at 11:00am.

Board Members Attending:

Scott Coleman
David Combs, Vice President
Vicki Graves, President
Martha Hancock
Kathy Kroll
Denyse Raskin
Bill Dani, Treasurer
Mark Iverson, Secretary

Guests Attending:

None

Board Members Absent:

None

Prior To This Meeting:

The March 5, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes were approved electronically.

The Annual Meeting/Elections were held on March 15. Sid Galton and Kathy Kroll were elected/re-elected without a vote as the races were not contested. Vicki Graves advised the membership at the meeting (85+) of the Financial Status of the Unit, reported on the three Sectionals, emphasized Membership growth and entertained questions from the floor.

On April 3, 2026 David recommended an Education Grant reimbursement in the amount of \$1000 for Mick Riccio for his Beginning Bridge classes. This is in accordance with the Unit's Education program. This recommendation was approved electronically.

On April 17, 2026 David recommended an Education Grant reimbursement in the amount of \$1000 for Cookie Ostrow for her Beginning Bridge classes. This is in accordance with the Unit's Education program. This recommendation was approved electronically.

On April 18, 2026 Vicki forwarded the Unit's first quarter results under the 5-5-5 Membership program. Our recruitment rate was 3.1% as compared to a national rate of .82%. Our retention loss rate was -1.42% as compared to -2.95% nationally. Of our 24 new members we had paid for the 1st year membership for 17 of our beginning bridge class graduates (\$39 each so \$663) from our WIN fund. The recruitment incentive from the 5-5-5 paid us \$493.

On April 20, 2026 Vicki advised the Board that Sid Galton had resigned from the Board due to personal issues. She recommended that Mark Iverson replace Sid for the remainder of Sid's three year term. This recommendation was approved electronically.

Discussion:

San Diego is hosting the North American Bridge Championships from Nov 26 to Dec 6, 2026. They are launching an Event Naming Sponsorship as a fundraising effort as a meaningful way to honor an important player/teacher/mentor/person and also demonstrate a commitment to growing the game. Many 299er games remain open for sponsorship. This was discussed in prior board meetings and was decided at the time our money could be used more effectively elsewhere. Upon further review today, Vicki recommended that we should support this effort and donate \$300 for a 299er game and honor Nancy Erickson who had served as Unit President as well as on the D22 board. The board voted unanimously in favor.

The board voted to approve the following as officers for the 2026/2027 year:

Vicki Graves, President
David Combs, Vice President
Bill Dani, Treasurer (Scott Coleman will be in training to back up this position.)
Mark Iverson, Secretary

In addition, it was noted that Martha & Kathy would be Tournament co-chairs, Denyse would be in charge of Membership, Scott would handle Unit Games, David will be the Education Chair and Vicki will do Publicity. Responsibility for the Holiday Party, Awards and the 2027 Elections was not yet assigned. Prior to the meeting, Vicki had forwarded the Unit's calendar of 'what needs to be done when' to all board members.

Sign-Up Genius will be available for partnership sign up for the Palm Springs Regional. This on-line software program is designed to mechanically assist persons seeking a partner for a particular session/event and so make it easier for the individual and the Partnership Chair (Kathy). Vicki advised that District 22 had already voted and approved to use Genius and paid for a 2 year license fee. Vicki will send out pictures of this new site. Kathy was receptive to the idea but had reservations in that some people are unwilling or unable to use on-line applications.

There was an open discussion about our Desert Sands and Slams Flyer. The new title of our (previously named) Harvest Sectional event was well received by all board members. Great idea Martha and Kathy! There was a question proposed as to whether or not the Unit 533 name needs to be on the flyer. Also noted that the "Credit cards only please" is only a request not a requirement. Cash will still be accepted but credit cards are highly preferred. The tournament is scheduled for November 6-7, 2026. Vicki said that Guy Bracket had said the CVBF was willing to honor the same terms for our three next season sectionals—i.e. a 50/50 split of the net.

It was reported that the Unit has at least 44 guest members which we'd like to convert to full memberships with an offer to pay their first year dues from WIN. Denyse has a list of names and plans to focus on those who took beginning bridge classes and have played in our face to face games.

Bill Dani presented the 1st quarter financial report ending March 31, 2026. Revenues for the quarter were \$11,586.08, the largest contributor for the quarter was Sectional income of \$9,551.49. Our ACBL Membership Share income was \$1,214.59. Expenses for the quarter were \$8,056.78, the largest expense being \$6,588.61 for the Sectional. Vicki noted that we had 21.5 tables at our Awards/Annual Meeting lunch & game in March with a net loss of \$152. Our Net Surplus for the quarter was \$3,529.30 which Bill believed was comparable to 2025.

Bank of America deposits on hand total \$45,427.51. Bill's Financial reports will be posted on our website.

At the end of the meeting we all shared a little of our past histories. We shared where we attended high school, what our goals were at the time, college experiences, and compared our goals to what was actually achieved. This was a very nice way to get to know each other better. As a follow up Martha asked that we all share a brief history of our bridge experience.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Mark Iverson