

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – January 7, 2013

Present: Peter Benjamin, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Chuck Fonarow, Brana Hall, Fred Mautner, David Raphael, Bob Shore, Candy Scott, Carolyn Taff

Absent: Karen Byrd, Howard Einberg, Barbara Nusbaum

Guest: Marcia Fisher

BUT, OFFICER... The following officers were elected and additional positions appointed: President - Bob; Vice President - Howard; Treasurer - Fred; Secretary - Jordan; Membership - Roger; Electronic Contact - Roger; Webmaster - Cecil; Discipline - Chuck; Recorder - Gene White; Business - Peter; Tournaments - Peter and Sam Haveson; Hospitality and Sunshine - Barbara and Jeri; Publicity - Candy; Intermediate/Novice - Karen; Charity - Fred; Education - Howard; GNT - Howard; NAP - Karen; STaC - Cecil; ALACBU Representatives - Candy, Carolyn, Cecil, Peter; Alternates - Barbara, Bob, Brana, Howard.

SHOW ME THE MONEY – Fred reported cash on hand as of 1/7/13: \$30,894. The party basically broke even.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Peter continues to search for possible alternate sites for the Fall Sectional, but believes we are not going to get a better rate than we have now anywhere in the area.

PARTY HEARTY -- The date for the holiday party will be Sunday, November 24. Fred cut a deposit check of \$500 which the committee will submit to our contact, Cynthia. Our price per person is being raised \$3 this year; other groups will be charged \$10 more per person in 2013.

UNIT GAMES AND CHAMPIONSHIPS -- Candy again distributed discussion lists and flyers for proposed Unit games and championships and asked for brainstorming ideas at the next meeting. No changes were made to the votes on events held at the December meeting.

THE VOY POLLOI -- Howard, who originated the Volunteer of the Year Award, will meet with Carolyn and Jordan in an effort to more clearly define the criteria for the award and the process by which the winner is selected.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE -- Jeri sent a card to Peter's wife, who is just now recovering from an extended bout with pneumonia and other matters.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES - Roger reported that Unit membership is down from 1,104 at the beginning of 2008 to 1,059 at the beginning of this year.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 4 at 6:15 p.m. at Beverly Hills Bridge Club.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – February 4, 2013

Present: Peter Benjamin, Jeri Berger, Karen Byrd, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Chuck Fonarow, Brana Hall, Fred Mautner, Barbara Nusbaum, David Raphael, Bob Shore, Candy Scott, Carolyn Taff

Absent: Howard Einberg

Guest: Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY – Fred reported cash on hand as of 2/4/13: \$29,821.68.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Both Barrington and Beverly Hills are willing to host Unit STaC games, and both wish to handle their food arrangements on their own.

PARTY HEARTY -- Brana met with the catering manager, Cynthia. We have a signed contract for Sunday, November 24. We will want to advertise the party this year.

UNIT GAMES AND CHAMPIONSHIPS -- There will be Unit Championship games on February 12 afternoon (Barrington and Beverly Hills) and evening (Cyma's and Marina). There will be a Unit Championship at Barrington and Beverly Hills in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday, on the afternoon of Saturday, March 2. Marcia will investigate whether Beverly Hills wishes to host a St. Patrick's Day game on the evening of Sunday, March 17. If so, the Board authorized Bob to negotiate the terms and conditions of the game with Beverly Hills. Candy also passed out fliers for a possible "Beat the House" game on the Friday night of the Fall Sectional.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE -- Birger "Bill" Holmquist passed away suddenly of a heart attack. Shirley Kotler had a bad fall, with broken bones. Paul Smith is ailing. Jeri will send cards.

BYLAWS -- Barbara suggested that the Board or a committee thereof conduct a thorough review of the Bylaws and propose revisions as necessary. In particular, there is a need for a procedure to follow in the event of a tied election for one or more positions on the Board. Cecil will send Jordan a copy of the current Bylaws and Jordan will distribute it electronically to the Board.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12 at 6:15 p.m. at Barrington.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – March 12, 2013

Present: Jeri Berger, Karen Byrd, Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Howard Einberg, Brana Hall, Barbara Nusbaum, David Raphel, Bob Shore, Candy Scott, Carolyn Taff

Absent: Peter Benjamin, Jordan Chodorow, Chuck Fonarow

Guests: Bob Chen, Marcia Fisher, Stephanie Young

SHOW ME THE MONEY – The Board mourns the loss of longtime member and treasurer Fred Mautner, who passed away. The Board elected Roger as treasurer. Roger reported that as of January 31, 2013, the Unit has funds of \$30,901.39 at Wilshire State Bank (\$5,824.44 in a checking account and \$25,078.95 in three certificates of deposit). The signatories on the bank accounts have been Howard, Jordan and Fred; Roger will replace Fred as a signatory.

WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT -- Fred's passing created a vacancy on the Board. A motion was made to appoint Stephanie to the seat. This motion was tabled. A motion was made to appoint Colin Gordon to the seat. This motion passed. Bob will contact Colin to see whether Colin will serve.

ABA HEY HEY -- The Board voted to establish a new position as ambassador/liaison to the American Bridge Association. Stephanie was appointed to this position. Stephanie is currently the president of the ABA's local unit. Stephanie invited all ACBL members to attend an ABA game to be held on Sunday, June 2 at 134 N. Market St., Inglewood. Lunch will be served at 12:30, followed by a game at 2:00. The cost is \$10, including lunch.

UNIT GAMES -- Bob created a Unit Games Committee consisting of Candy (chairperson), Chuck, Jordan and Karen. Unit games scheduled for April and May (pending club approval) are April 16 (aft. and eve.), May 13 (aft.), May 14 (eve), May 15 (aft.), May 16 (aft. and evening team championship), May 17 (aft.).

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Cecil distributed a draft schedule for the May 3-5 Unit STaC. This schedule was approved. Stratified open pair games will be held at Barrington on Friday at 12:30 and 7:15 and Saturday at 10:00 and 3:00, and at Beverly Hills on Friday at 12:30 and Saturday and Sunday at 1:00.

CHINESE SCHOOL BRIDGE -- Bob announced that he will try to reinstitute bridge lessons as an elective on Saturday afternoons at the Chinese Middle School.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 8 at 6:15 p.m. at Beverly Hills.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – April 8, 2013

Present: Jeri Berger, Karen Byrd, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Howard Einberg, Chuck Fonarow, David Raphael, Bob Shore, Candy Scott, Carolyn Taff

Absent: Peter Benjamin, Brana Hall, Barbara Nusbaum

Guests: Marcia Fisher, Rick Turner

SHOW ME THE MONEY – Roger reported cash on hand of \$27,939.41.

WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT -- Colin thanked the Board for offering him the vacant position but declined to serve. The Board authorized Bob to offer the position to Stephanie Young, and he will do so.

ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS -- Ryan Wessels, a former member of the Unit now living in San Jose, wrote a letter to the Board requesting financial support to attend the World Junior Championships. A motion was made to match any support provided by his new Unit up to \$75. The motion failed. A separate motion was made to provide \$150 in financial support to any Unit resident (as of the qualification date) on any District-winning GNT team, contingent on his or her actually attending the Summer NABC in Atlanta and playing in the respective GNT event. This motion carried.

UNIT GAMES -- BHBC has declined to hold a Thursday afternoon Championship on May 16, and the schedule has been revised accordingly.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Cecil reported that Barrington only wishes to hold a 1:00 p.m. game on Saturday, May 4, and the schedule has been revised accordingly.

THE VOY POLLOI - Candy distributed printed materials with discussion points regarding the selection process for the Volunteer of the Year. The VOY Committee, consisting of Carolyn and Jordan, will meet with Howard to discuss these points as well as his original intentions in creating the award. The Committee will report back to the Board with recommendations at the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES - Rick will provide Jeri a list of regular players at BHBC who are not yet members of ACBL. Roger has requested that somebody take over his current position as Membership Chair. No definitive action has yet been taken on this request.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:15 p.m. at Barrington.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – May 7, 2013

Present: Peter Benjamin, Jeri Berger, Karen Byrd, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Howard Einberg, Chuck Fonarow, Brana Hall, Barbara Nusbaum, Bob Shore, Candy Scott

Absent: David Raphel, Carolyn Taff

Guests: Becky Clough, Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY – Roger reported cash on hand of \$28,122.20. Roger and Howard opened a checking account with OneWest Bank (Raintree branch) and closed out one Wilshire State Bank Business Certificate and had the proceeds deposited in the Wilshire State Bank checking account. The signatories on the OneWest Bank checking account will be Bob, Howard, Roger and Jordan.

POINT OF ORDER - Bob asked the Board to clarify a point regarding the motion that passed at the April meeting to provide \$150 in financial support to any Unit resident (as of the qualification date) on any District-winning GNT team, contingent on his or her actually attending the Summer NABC in Atlanta and playing in the respective GNT event. The Board clarified that it did not wish to provide such support to players added to a team after the District qualifying.

UNIT GAMES -- Candy passed out flyers and other materials regarding the June 2 ABA/ACBL game and the June 9 Live Master Solvers Panel Show and Stratified 99'er Championship (with contemporaneous open game) at BHBC (panel show 12:15, game time 1:00). We are aware of at least six to ten or more tables of 99'ers who will travel to attend this event. Candy needs people from the Board to attend and arrive early to help with set-up and other arrangements.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Cecil submitted a report showing the attendance and proceeds from the May Unit STaC. The event did not receive a great deal of publicity. Peter Knee did not send out his usual e-mail blast in a timely manner. The Friday evening game was very small (~5 ½ tables). Barrington appears disinclined to host the event in the future.

Peter requested a \$500 deposit check for the fall sectional, and submitted a draft flyer to publicize the event. The flyer was approved.

THE VOY POLLOI - Carolyn, Howard and Jordan communicated to address the Volunteer of the Year award and Jordan submitted for the Board's consideration a draft proposal regarding the award and the process by which it is selected. The Board will review the proposal at the next meeting. A copy is attached to the e-mail by which these minutes are sent to the Board.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES - Jeri raised the issue of how we get new members to join the ACBL. It is possible to join online, but many players are not able or do not choose to do so. It was suggested that membership forms should be available at all Unit clubs. Stephanie will speak to Roger about the possibility of serving as Membership Chair and communicating with clubs and teachers to make it easier to bring new members into ACBL.

PLAQUE REMOVAL -- Peter will look into the status of the plaques that Fred Mautner had taken to have engraved.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 3 at 6:15 p.m. at BHBC.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – June 3, 2013

Present: Peter Benjamin, Karen Byrd, Donna Castor, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Howard Einberg, Chuck Fonarow, Barbara Nusbaum, Bob Shore, Candy Scott, Stephanie Young

Absent: Brana Hall, David Raphel, Carolyn Taff

Guest: Marcia Fisher

WELCOME ABOARD -- Jeri Berger has again chosen to leave the Board. We are delighted to welcome Donna Castor to the Board.

SHOW ME THE MONEY – Roger reported cash on hand of \$28,218.10.

PLAQUE BUILDUP -- Peter has located the Jill Meyers plaque and the Player of the Year plaque. The former has been picked up and is back on the wall at Barrington; the latter will be picked up forthwith. Peter believes the Mary Jane Farell plaque is somewhere in the BHBC building. Marcia will investigate.

ABA/ACBL Game - Stephanie thanked those Board members whose participation helped make the inaugural event on Sunday, June 2 a big success with 22.5 tables (virtually full capacity) at the Los Angeles Bridge Unit in Inglewood. Stephanie will help ensure that the ABA is similarly well represented at our joint game at Barrington in August. Stephanie and Candy will choose a date (preferably in the second half of August, perhaps August 17) in consultation with Adrienne.

UNIT GAMES -- Jeri and David will man the partnership and registration desk at this Sunday's upcoming panel show and game. Orange juice and mini-muffins will be served. The panelists will include Roger, Becky, Bill Schreiber, John Jones (moderator), and perhaps a surprise guest from Las Vegas. Candy needs help disassembling tables between the panel show and the game. Sam has procured sanctions for both an open and a novice game. Candy will direct the latter. The Board approved paying Candy \$50 for her services.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Peter has submitted our deposit check for the Fall sectional to Kayne Eras Center and will sign the contract by the end of next week. Approximately one week before the tournament, Peter will assess the weather situation and decide whether to turn the AC on. Bob will note in the Unit column that we are seeing to the AC issue. We can also move as many tables as possible out of the direct "line of fire" of the AC. Donna will help Barbara to man the partnership desk. Peter has made flyers for the sectional available for viewing at BHBC.

THE VOY POLLOI - The Board passed the proposal submitted at last month's meeting regarding the selection of the Volunteer of the Year.

COLUMNS (AND ROWS) -- Bob and Candy will continue to work together to promote the Unit's events to best effect in the Unit column in the Southern California Bridge News. As columnist, Bob retains final edit.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9 at 6:15 p.m. at Barrington.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – July 9, 2013

Present: Peter Benjamin, Karen Byrd, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Chuck Fonarow, Brana Hall, Barbara Nusbaum, David Raphael, Bob Shore, Candy Scott, Carolyn Taff, Stephanie Young

Absent: Donna Castor, Howie Einberg

Guest: Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY – Roger reported cash on hand of \$29,225.51.

SECTIONAL HEALING - Peter has signed a contract with Kayne Eras Center for the fall sectional August 31 through September 2. There will be a Friday night pair game at Barrington, and Peter proposed that if its table count falls below nine, the game be eliminated henceforth. A few days before the tournament, Peter will assess the weather conditions and instruct KEC at what level to set the temperature.

UNIT GAMES -- Candy distributed a draft flyer for the ABA/ACBL game on Saturday, August 17 at 1:00 p.m. at Barrington. Candy and Karen will consult with Adrienne on what food will be purchased (at Costco or Smart & Final) and brought in for the game.

HOLIDAY PARTY - Carolyn distributed a flyer with RSVP form. Brana and Marcia will work on getting free plays to give away. Carolyn will consult with Sam to get a unit game sanction for the game. Cecil will talk to Dichner about supplies in October. We will advertise in the September and October issues of the Bridge News. Karen will ask Kevin Lane about advertising on the District 23 website.

D23 REGIONAL - The just completed regional in Long Beach was a major success, with 1417.5 tables in play. The Pro-Am game was also a big success, with approximately 100 Am's.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE - Ed Feldmann is back in the hospital.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7 at 6:15 p.m. at BHBC.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – August 7, 2013

Present: Peter Benjamin, Donna Castor, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Chuck Fonarow, Barbara Nusbaum, David Raphel, Bob Shore, Candy Scott, Stephanie Young

Absent: Karen Byrd, Howie Einberg, Brana Hall, Carolyn Taff

SHOW ME THE MONEY – Roger reported cash on hand of \$29,091.32. Roger gave Bob three checks to pay any items that must be paid on the date of the ACBL/ABA game (below).

SECTIONAL HEALING - Kevin Lane will be sent a PDF of the sectional flyer to post on the D23 website. One contact at ACBL told Peter the flyer cannot be posted to the league website because of improper masterpoint limits on one or more brackets. Peter will forward that e-mail to Cecil and Bob for follow-up, and the Board voted to authorize any changes ACBL requires. Barbara and Candy will handle the food, and Barbara and Donna will handle the hospitality and partnership desks. Marco has been hired for service help.

ACBL/ABA GAME -- Candy distributed flyers for the free ACBL/ABA game on Saturday, August 17 at 1:00 p.m. at Barrington. Peter will be given a list of foods to pick up at Costco. The amount of food will be based on the number of reservations received. The Board authorized a budget for food and all non-Barrington items of \$310 (not to be exceeded). Karen will negotiate the cost of Barrington items with Adrienne. Candy's draft budget estimated a cost for Barrington items of \$450 and some felt this figure was on the high side, while others found it about right.

PLAQUE BUILDUP - Peter has unearthed the Mary Jane Farell plaque and had it updated. It is now at BHBC for hanging.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE - Sadly, former Unit member Gary King passed away during July.

DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED - Copies of the current roster and by-laws are included in this e-mail. Henceforth, the Secretary will send copies of these documents to new Board members.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3 at 6:15 p.m. at Barrington.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – September 3, 2013

Present: Peter Benjamin, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Howard Einberg,
Chuck Fonarow, Barbara Nusbaum, Candy Scott, Bob Shore, Stephanie
Young

Absent: Karen Byrd, Donna Castor, Cecil Cook, Brana Hall, David Raphel,
Carolyn Taff

Guest: Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY – Roger reported cash on hand as of 9/3/13: \$30,737.93. The financial report was amended to note that substantial additional rent owed to Kayne Eras Center must be deducted from the amount deposited in our account from the recent sectional.

SECTIONAL HEALING - Peter reported that attendance was good Saturday but weak Sunday and Monday. He has asked Adrienne for a proposal to rent out Barrington for the Fall Sectional.

ACBL/ABA GAME -- Adrienne has submitted additional receipts for reimbursement in the amount of approximately \$393. After several amendments, the Board adopted a motion authorizing Bob's designee to negotiate with Barrington to reimburse up to \$393. Sam Haveson will look into whether we can pay less to ACBL than the \$138 charity sanction by retroactively revising the sanction to that of a Unit championship.

ELECTION DAY - Election materials will be posted at Unit clubs. The deadline for signups is October 13. An Election Committee will be formed consisting of Board members not up for re-election.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 7 at 6:15 p.m. at BHBC.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – October 7, 2013

Present: Peter Benjamin, Karen Byrd, Donna Castor, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Chuck Fonarow, David Raphael, Bob Shore, Carolyn Taff, Stephanie Young

Absent: Cecil Cook, Howard Einberg, Brana Hall, Barbara Nusbaum, Candy Scott

Guest: Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY – Roger reported cash on hand as of 10/7/13: \$28,529.03. The fall sectional turned a net profit of \$455.86.

THE POY (AND VOY) POLLOI - Roger will chair the Player of the Year Committee unless scheduling requires him to designate Peter, Cecil, Howard, Barbara or Candy, the other winners. Both POY and Volunteer of the Year Committees will meet prior to next month's meeting.

PARTY HEARTY - Carolyn reported that all preparations are underway for the party. Brana is in charge of procuring directors. There has been some turnover in the catering department at BHCC. The new manager is interested in bridge and possibly helping us cross-promote our activities with their club members. Carolyn will speak to him about possibilities, including whether it might make sense to conduct a future sectional at BHCC.

SECTIONAL HEALING - Peter is still waiting for a proposal from Adrienne regarding renting out Barrington for the fall sectional. A backup plan is needed.

ACBL/ABA GAME -- A motion passed to pay the sanctions from the ACBL/ABA game held at Barrington earlier this year, if not already paid, so that high finishers will receive their points.

ELECTION DAY - Election materials are still posted at Unit clubs. The deadline for signups is October 13. So far, we are not aware of any sign-ups that would necessitate an election.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 4 at 6:15 p.m. at BHBC.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – November 4, 2013

Present: Peter Benjamin, Jordan Chodorow, Cecil Cook, Howard Einberg, Chuck Fonarow, Barbara Nusbaum, Candy Scott, Bob Shore, Carolyn Taff

Absent: Karen Byrd, Donna Castor, Roger Clough, Brana Hall, David Raphael, Stephanie Young

Guest: Marcia Fisher

PARTY HEARTY - Carolyn reported that centerpieces featuring her collections of nutcrackers and table markers are done. Cecil handling supply rentals. Brana has hired Rodger and Denny to direct. Howard is handling reservations, of which we have received approximately 50 so far. We need to put the flyer on the D23 website and talk up the party. Stephanie is promoting the party with the ABA. Barbara and Jordan will arrive at 10:00 a.m. and handle registration and the raffle. Some on-site staff from previous years remain at BHCC and will be helpful to have around. Sam is procuring the sanction. Carolyn will look into the sunlight glare issue Candy raised. Carolyn is also working to start a bridge program at BHCC and has a preliminary meeting scheduled for November 14.

SECTIONAL HEALING - Adrienne has proposed a rate of \$200 per session, plus \$100-\$150 per day for Ralph. For this price, we would get coffee, set-up, clean-up, and the use of club facilities, which might mean not having to contract for outside supplies. Monday would have to be worked out because Barrington runs a game on Monday afternoon, which we would want them to cancel if we held the Swiss Teams there on Monday. This year, their Labor Day game attracted only ten tables. A motion to discontinue the Friday night game at the upcoming sectional passed. Peter will continue to negotiate with Adrienne and look into possible backups for Monday.

THE POY (AND VOY) POLLOI - The Player of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Committees nominated candidates for the two awards. Additional nominations were received from the Board. Votes were held and, in each case, a winner emerged on the first ballot.

ELECTION DAY -- No election was required this year, so all "class of 2013" members are returned to the Board for a new two-year term.

BYLAWS -- Candy suggests that the Bylaws be amended to make them gender-neutral by removing references to "he," "him," "his," etc. She will submit proposed language at least ten days prior to the next meeting and we will take up discussion of the proposal at that time. Candy also submitted a proposed description of Unit events. This may also be edited and submitted to the Board prior to the next meeting. Keep your eyes peeled.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – Next meeting: Tues., December 10, 6:15 p.m., Barrington.

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – December 11, 2013

Present: Karen Byrd, Donna Castor, Jordan Chodorow, Cecil Cook, Chuck Fonarow, Brana Hall, Barbara Nusbaum, Candy Scott, Bob Shore, Carolyn Taff

Absent: Peter Benjamin, Roger Clough, Howard Einberg, David Raphael, Stephanie Young

Guests: Marcia Fisher, Rand Pinsky

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Roger's Treasurer's Report showed cash on hand of \$29,105.99.

ACBL TELL - Rand joined us to bring us up to date on some ACBL news. Membership continues to increase, and the league has a budget for next year of approximately \$16 million. Dues will go up approximately \$2/year in April, so renew today. Rand noted that we are the largest unit within ALACBU and deserve consideration, so please bring any concerns or suggestions to his attention.

PARTY HEARTY - The Board expressed its appreciation to the committee of Brana, Carolyn and Marcia for putting on an excellent holiday party. They in turn thanked Stephanie, Vicki Ebin and Kathy Harouche for their significant contributions to the party's success. A few problems were reported. One room was very cold and the air conditioning could not be turned off. There were issues with the directors and the Bridgemate devices. Because of the cold, the club only charged us for 10 of the 20 guests above the 118 we had contracted for. The committee warned that the price to have the event at the club next year will necessarily increase. We have tentatively reserved Sunday, November 23, 2014 at the club but will wait to remit a deposit until we receive their bid and decide whether to accept it. The committee wants to emphasize early arrival next year to avoid the late influx of unexpected guests, some of them rude, who caused problems for us and the club this year.

BYLAWS -- Candy will submit proposed gender-neutral language at least ten days prior to the next meeting and we will take up discussion of the proposal at that time. Keep your eyes peeled.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR – Our annual election meeting will be held at the home of Marcia Fisher at 10654 Le Conte Avenue, L.A., CA 90024 at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2014.