

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – January 21, 2014

Present: Peter Benjamin, Karen Byrd, Donna Castor, Cecil Cook, Brana Hall, Barbara Nusbaum, David Raphael, Candy Scott, Bob Shore, Stephanie Young

Absent: Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Howard Einberg, Chuck Fonarow, Carolyn Taff

Guests: Jeri Berger, Sandy Einberg, Marcia and Barry Fisher

THE HOSTS WITH THE MOST -- The Board thanked Marcia and Barry for hosting the meeting and putting out such a great spread. Their hospitality is most appreciated.

CANDY IS DANDY -- Jordan wishes to thank Candy for taking excellent minutes in his absence.

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Peter delivered the Treasurer's Report. There is some concern about dwindling funds.

BUT, OFFICER... -- The following officers were elected and appointments filled: President -- Bob; Vice President -- Karen; Treasurer -- Roger; Secretary -- Jordan; Webmaster -- Carolyn; ALACBU Reps -- Bob, Candy, Cecil, Peter; Alternates -- Barbara (first alternate), Carolyn, Howard. All other appointments remain unchanged from last year.

PARTY HEARTY - The party committee has to deal with new people at BHBC who want to charge \$18 more per person without seafood or desserts. We need to charge more, but how much more? There will be a cutoff date and anyone paying after that date will owe \$10 more. The idea of bridge first, then dinner was rejected. David is on the board of the Marina City Club and may have some pull in getting us in there. Brana and David will check into that and report back.

BYLAWS -- Discussion of the proposed bylaws changes was deferred to the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE -- Candy is working on an experiment for ALACBU, sending written notes to all non-LM's who let their membership expire, to let them know the District cares about them and ask what we can do to get them back. Candy and Becky Clough have offered to talk to them and see if we can get any of them back. Candy notes that 19 of 60 are from our Unit. Perhaps we could run a mentor program whereby someone calls a non-LM after he or she receives the letter and offers to play a session with the non-LM. Long Beach has such a program.

UNIT CHAMPS -- Candy was asked for dates for unit championships for February and March

by BHBC and the rest of the year for the next meeting.

CYMA TIME NEXT YEAR -- Cyma is retiring and giving up her Tuesday night game after January 28.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Monday, February 10, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – February 10, 2014

Present: Peter Benjamin, Jordan Chodorow, Cecil Cook, Roger Clough, Howard Einberg, Barbara Nusbaum, David Raphael, Candy Scott, Bob Shore, Carolyn Taff

Absent: Karen Byrd, Donna Castor, Chuck Fonarow (ten demerits), Brana Hall, Stephanie Young

Guests: Marcia Fisher, Doug Kuschner

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Roger reported cash on hand as of 2/9/14: \$30,017.52. This amount will be reduced by approximately \$2,000 for the \$2-per-Unit-member fee charged by ALACBU.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Peter has talked to Adrienne and Rodger. They are not sure they have enough room for a tournament, as Barrington can accommodate a maximum of approximately 33 tables. Peter was asked to work this out with them and to give them a deadline of March 1 to negotiate a signed contract. The Kayne Eras Center is Plan B.

PARTY HEARTY - BHCC has not yet given us a written proposal or begun work on same. They are unwilling to hold the date without a non-refundable deposit and have promised a proposal that works with our budget, but we already know it will not include seafood. David received several proposals from the Marina City Club. Someone needs to vet whether the space would satisfy our requirements. Carolyn expressed concerns about the size and lighting of the space.

BYLAWS -- A motion passed to replace all instances of "he" in the Bylaws with "he or she," "him" with "him or her," and "his" with "his or her."

YEARLY EVENTS -- Candy's motion to pay sanction fees for split Unit games (e.g., two-site Tuesday night games using different boards) as well as Unit-Wide games passed.

HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU, KID -- Doug spoke about the importance of the educational and competitive junior bridge events supported by the February Junior Fund Month. All of us are encouraged to promote Junior Fund games to support these worthwhile activities.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Monday, March 10, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – March 10, 2014

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

Absent: Chuck Fonarow (eleven demerits)

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Roger reported cash on hand as of 3/9/14: \$28,782.94.

PARTY HEARTY - We have given BHCC a \$1000 deposit for the party on Sunday, November 23rd. Two seafood tables - shrimp and poached salmon - will be included. Desserts will be served with brunch, and we will bring in our own desserts for afterward. BHCC is charging \$35 per person and \$1000 for room setup, both significant price increases from prior years. They have asked for a head count two weeks before the party. Accordingly, the Board voted to charge \$50 but advertise a 10% (\$5) discount for those who pre-register by a date set by the Committee. There is sentiment that we need new directors, both a director in charge and a second director. Board members will speak with Peter Knee and David White about the positions.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Peter apprised the Board of a promising "Plan C" (Plan A being the Kayne Eras Center and Plan B being Barrington). The new possibility is Temple Akiba, near KEC at 5249 Sepulveda. They have 2,500 square feet of primary space, with some additional rooms, as well as a kitchen, air conditioning, and ample parking. Cecil, Howard and Peter will visit Temple Akiba to vet the space and make a determination as to its viability for the sectional. Barrington has been less than fully cooperative and may not have enough space for our needs. Carolyn will quickly look into the possibility of the newly constructed space at Roxbury Park.

JILL MEYERS TROPHY -- A motion passed to reinstate (officially) the Jill Meyers Trophy, awarded to the Unit member who earns the most points at our fall sectional, in light of Jill's speaking at certain local events and her recent election to the ACBL Hall of Fame.

CANDY IS DANDY -- Candy reported that she has sent letters to all Unit members who did not renew their ACBL membership, and that ten of them (including nine non-LM's) have since renewed. The Board thanked Candy for her work in this regard, which also includes sending letters to non-renewing members of other Units in the district.

UNIT GAMES -- Upcoming Unit games include a Unit-Wide Championship on St. Patrick's Day and five or six championships to be held during the week of May 12-17, including Saturday afternoon. The (hopefully) annual ABA-ACBL game at the ABA club will be held on Sunday, June 8, with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. and bridge at 2:00 p.m. Candy reported on many other exciting games to come, including a reprise of the Master Solvers Live panel with John Jones.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Monday, April 7, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – April 7, 2014

Present: Karen Byrd, Donna Castor, Jordan Chodorow, Cecil Cook, Roger Clough, Howard Einberg, Brana Hall, David Raphael, Candy Scott, Bob Shore,

Absent: Peter Benjamin, Chuck Fonarow (eleven demerits), Barbara Nusbaum, Carolyn Taff, Stephanie Young

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Roger reported three checks, the largest being the Unit's payment to the District of slightly over \$2,000 (\$2 per member) toward the cost of the Southern California Bridge News.

PARTY HEARTY - Brana showed an early draft of the flyer. The Board voted to charge \$50 per guest if payment is received by a date selected by the Committee (currently November 12), or \$60 per guest at the door (if space is available).

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Howard and Cecil reported their findings after visiting Temple Akiba, 5249 Sepulveda. The space is adequate (barely). Construction is under way; if it is not finished before the sectional, the walk to the restrooms will be problematic. There may be a slight parking issue vis-à-vis the adjacent store. Nevertheless, in the absence of known viable alternatives, the Board voted to authorize Peter to execute a contract with Temple Akiba.

UNIT GAMES -- Upcoming Unit games during the week of May 12-17 include Unit-Wide Championships at Barrington and BHBC on the afternoons of Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; a Championship at the Marina City Club on Tuesday evening; and a Swiss Teams at BHBC on Thursday evening.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Monday, May 5, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – May 5, 2014 (Happy Birthday, Donna!)

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

Absent: Brana Hall, Donna Castor

Guest: Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Roger reported cash on hand as of 5/4/14: \$26,628.02.

PARTY HEARTY - BHCC has set a deadline of November 7 for a head count (though there may be some "fudge factor"). Accordingly, the invitation will reflect a \$50 rate for payments received by November 7 and a \$60 rate thereafter (as available). The Committee will need help with decorations and has put out a request for large (five-pound) Costco peanut or coffee cans. Peter Knee will direct with a second director.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Temple Akiba has asked us to prepare the contract. We will also need to draft an event schedule. A motion passed to charge an extra \$1 per session at the Monday Swiss. This game will offer enhanced and regionally rated masterpoints and the extra card fees will go to subsidize our district's teams in the grass-roots (NAP and GNT) events.

ABA GAME - The ABA/ACBL game at the ABA club in Inglewood will be held on Sunday, June 8. All are strongly encouraged to support this terrific event. The ABA/ACBL game at Barrington (on a date to be determined) will be a Unit game, not to coincide with an NAP qualifier.

PAT BANKS - The Board voted unanimously to spend \$200 to name a two-session event at the upcoming Regional in honor of the late Pat Banks. Stephanie gave the Board a beautiful card expressing her gratitude for the Board's sympathy.

UNIT GAMES -- Candy informed Marcia that if BHBC schedules a NAP qualifier for a Sunday in June, July or August, we will hold our ice cream social on that date to boost attendance; similarly, should BHBC schedule an NAP qualifier for a Monday in those months, we will hold a Board meeting on that date. No objection was raised.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE - Millie Fraider passed away. Our condolences to her loved ones.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Monday, June 2, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – June 2, 2014

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

Absent: Karen Byrd

Guest: Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Roger reported cash on hand as of 5/31/14: \$26,578.97. Cash on hand as of 12/31/13 was \$28,561.58. Cash on hand as of 12/31/12 was \$30,972.95. Cash on hand as of 12/31/11 was \$31,435.57.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Peter raised the possibility of using the upstairs rooms at the veterans convention center in Culver City. We may also be able to get the nicer Rotunda Room at a workable rate. The facility is not available on Labor Day because it is a holiday, so we would move the dates to Friday-Sunday. There would likely be a PR issue with returning to Kayne Eras Center in light of unfavorable experiences in the past. Accordingly, a motion passed to authorize Peter to choose the location and execute a contract.

ABA GAME - The ABA/ACBL game at the ABA club in Inglewood will be held on Sunday, June 8. Karen will work with Adrienne to set up the companion game at Barrington, perhaps in September.

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM - The Board agreed to pay the \$1 per person for everyone to participate in the NAOP qualifying if the ice cream social is scheduled on a qualifying date.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Wednesday, July 9, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – July 9, 2014

Present: Peter Benjamin, Karen Byrd, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Barbara Nusbaum, Bob Shore, Carolyn Taff, Stephanie Young

Absent: Donna Castor, Cecil Cook, Howard Einberg, Chuck Fonarow, Brana Hall, David Raphel, Candy Scott

Guest: Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Roger reported cash on hand as of 7/8/2014: \$26,183.68.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- We are heading back to Kayne Eras Center for the fall sectional, from Saturday, August 30 through Monday, September 1. Peter distributed an attractive flyer that helpfully includes a Save the Date notice for our holiday party on November 23. Peter needs help with all aspects of the tournament save caddies: food, partnership, hospitality, set-up, take-down. Bob's motion carried to schedule the spring 2015 sectional for the veterans' center in Culver City.

ABA GAME - Adrienne has tentatively scheduled the ABA/ACBL game at Barrington for September 28. Stephanie will liaise with Adrienne. We need to set a budget and obtain a written contract. The Board is amenable to renting the club from Adrienne and paying Ralph to work. We will use a Unit sanction and be responsible for all aspects (food, directors, etc.), and we will collect the card fees.

PARTY HEARTY - Marcia has asked us to be more involved in the organizing. She will give us further instructions at the next meeting.

YOU'RE A REAL CARD - The subject of playing cards was raised. We need new cards for all of our events (sectional, holiday party, etc.) as the current cards are sticky, unsightly and unsanitary. Peter and Roger have been given cases of the new cards.

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM - The ice cream social will be held in conjunction with an NAP qualifying game on Sunday, August 24 at 1:00 p.m. at Beverly Hills.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Monday, August 4, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – August 4, 2014

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

Absent: Howard Einberg, Carolyn Taff, Stephanie Young

Guest: Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Roger reported cash on hand as of 8/4/2014: \$27,770.58.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Peter will get the weather report in advance (he has connections) and set the air conditioning accordingly. Peter and Roger will need help with set-up and take-down. Barbara will handle hospitality and, with Candy, will see to the food.

ABA GAME - Karen will confer with Stephanie to see where we stand with Barrington.

PARTY HEARTY - We want to do the bridge game as part of the STaC. We will coordinate with Peter Knee (our first director) regarding pre-duplication of boards.

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM - The ice cream social will move to a date in September. Marcia will investigate the availability of Sunday 9/14 and Sunday 9/21.

UNIT GAMES - The MS game on Sunday, August 17 will be a Unit game. There will also be a Unit-Wide Championship on August 12 and another Unit game on October 31.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE - The Board sends best wishes to Annie Corea after major surgery and to Sam Haveson after an automobile accident.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Monday, September 8, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – September 8, 2014

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

Absent: Karen Byrd, Brana Hall, David Raphel

Guest: Marcia Fisher

SHOW ME THE MONEY - Roger reported cash on hand as of 9/5/2014: \$29,294.63. Roger cautioned that this figure will be reduced by the balance due to Kayne Eras Center.

SECTIONAL HEALING -- Peter reported that attendance was "way, way down" on Saturday, up somewhat on Sunday and relatively flat on Monday. The temperature was good at all but two tables, so we will know not to place tables there if we return to KEC. The Committee would like to thank Terre Primmer for his help with set-up and take-down. The Board is looking at Temple Akiba for the spring sectional and will hold off on selecting a fall site until after that tournament.

ABA GAME - Bob signed a lease agreement with Adrienne. Ida has been asked to direct, with a possible second director if projected attendance rises. Stephanie has advertised at the ABA club and has received approximately twenty-four signups to date. The card fees will be \$10. Stephanie and Adrienne are producing flyers. We will borrow from them for the other clubs. Stephanie will procure sandwiches, salads and meatballs from a delicatessen in Gardena. Those nominated for permitted access to the kitchen will be Ralph, Stephanie, Gail Dennis of the ABA Club, and Carolyn. Jordan will bring two-liter soda bottles and ice.

PARTY HEARTY - The party is to be a black and white ball, so dress in black and white if so inclined. Brana, Carolyn and Marcia will meet with the catering director within the next week or two. The flyer has been prepared and Carolyn distributed it for perusal. The price is \$50 for entries postmarked by November 5 and \$60 for those postmarked thereafter. Rick is working on a STaC sanction for the game. Peter Knee will direct. Bob will list the date and time in the column.

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM - The ice cream social will take place on Sundae, September 21 at 1:00 at BHBC as a regular pair game. Barbara and Candy are coordinating.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – November 5, 2014

Present: Cyma Aronow, Peter Benjamin, Karen Byrd, Jordan Chodorow, Howard Einberg, Brana Hall, Barbara Nusbaum, Candy Scott, Bob Shore, Carolyn Taff (telephonically)

Absent: Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Chuck Fonarow (10 demerits), David Raphel, Stephanie Young

Guest: Marcia Fisher

OCTOBER MEETING - The meeting scheduled for October 8 failed for lack of quorum and was rescheduled to November 5.

GOODBYE AND HELLO - Donna Castor resigned from the Board to tend to some health issues. The Board thanks her very much for her service and wishes her all the best. Bob nominated Cyma Aronow to replace Donna on the Board and the motion passed unanimously. The Board welcomes Cyma and looks forward to working with her on behalf of the Unit.

TREASURER'S REPORT - [None.]

PARTY HEARTY - Carolyn reported that Peter Knee will direct and a second director has been lined up. Dischner will bring tables, supplies, bidding boxes and entry slips, and the directors will bring everything else, including duplicated boards. The menu, decorations, and registration are in place. We have received 84 reservations and counting, despite some resistance on the \$50 price.

THE POY (AND VOY) POLLOI - The Player of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Committees submitted nominations. Candy offered two additional nominations for VOY. Separate votes were held for the two awards and a winner was determined for each. The awards and prizes will be announced at the holiday party.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE - The Board wishes Barbara a speedy recovery.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- Next meeting: Monday, December 1, 6:15 p.m., BHBC

West Los Angeles Unit #562
Unit Board Minutes – December 1, 2014

Present: Cyma Aronow, Karen Byrd, Jordan Chodorow, Roger Clough, Cecil Cook, Chuck Fonarow, Howard Einberg, Brana Hall, Barbara Nusbaum, David Raphael, Bob Shore, Carolyn Taff, Stephanie Young

Absent: Peter Benjamin, Candy Scott

Guests: Marcia and Barrie Fisher, Yehudit Hasin

TREASURER'S REPORT - Roger reported cash on hand as of 11/30/14: \$27,607.02. The party ran at a loss of approximately \$2,500.

PARTY HEARTY - Brana reported that the food and service were excellent and that the committee received many compliments on the party. Even the air conditioning worked. Pete Knee did a good job as director. The second director put some pairs in the wrong rooms. Next year we can ask on the invitation in which game (regular or 299'er) guests wish to play. We need better promotion further in advance of the party. Ideas include sending out e-mails to all available lists, including Pete Knee's; listing the price as \$49.95 rather than \$50; if we again charge more for latecomers, phrasing it as a "carrot" (save \$10) rather than a stick (\$10 penalty); and putting "save the date" notices on tables at the clubs well before the party. Although we do not want to sustain losses of this magnitude every year, the sentiment of the Board is to continue to hold the party in something like its current form and to make a concerted effort to promote it. As the date approaches, we can also consider taking a line item to particular extras (champagne, chocolates).

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES - Rick Turner is stepping down as manager of BHBC at the end of the year. A replacement will likely be named after the club board's next meeting. Alan Wollman has offered to take the post. Given that the Unit has one remaining championship sanction, it will be used for a game named for and in honor of Rick. Speaking of sanctions, Cyma will be taking over sanctioning duties from Sam Haveson in the near future.

ABA HEY HEY - Our friends at the ABA's Los Angeles Bridge Unit will hold their holiday party on Saturday, December 6, with lunch at 11 am and bridge at 1 pm. All are invited to their beautiful club at 134 North Market Street near La Brea in Inglewood. Stephanie is President.

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE - The Board held a moment of silence in memory of our dearly departed friend and colleague Donna Castor.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR -- The next meeting will be our annual meeting at which officers will be elected and additional positions filled. Marcia and Barrie Fisher have graciously offered to host the meeting at their home at 10654 Le Conte Avenue, L.A., CA 90024 at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2015.