



# South Carolina Bridge Association, Inc.

ACBL UNIT 160

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UNIT 160 BOARD MEETING West Columbia Sectional  
Saturday, March 20, 1999  
11:00 am

ATTENDING: George Nichols, Keith Carpenter, DaMaris Rorie, Gwen Beckman, Kitty Altman, Spencer Hurd, John Hurd, Charlie Lohfeld, Mike Bitonti, Jim Current, Sara Wampole, Louise Burns, Charlie Toal, Jane Hunt, Dot Current for Richard Brown, Abdul Ghaffar for Evelyn Brandon, and Pat Webb for Glenn Savage

ABSENT (with notice) Jeff Ziemer and Anne Betge; (no notice) Janet Weir, Martin Johnson, Jack Healy, and Mark McLaughlin

PRESIDENT George Nichols called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

MINUTES of the February 13, 1999 meeting at the Myrtle Beach Regional were approved as mailed, John Hurd moving and Charlie Lohfeld seconding.

YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENT (2/28/99) was approved, Charlie Lohfeld moving, Kitty Altman seconding.

CHANGES TO THE 1999/2000 Board (as follows) were approved, with Charlie Lohfeld moving and Kitty Altman seconding.

- Central - Mike Bitonti to serve Bob Webb's two-year term
- Charlie Toal to complete Caroline Paulling's second year
- Sara Wampole to serve Jeanette Warner's two-year term
- Eastern - Charlie Lohfeld and Jack Healy to serve two-year terms

STaC (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) - Keith Carpenter moved, Charlie Lohfeld seconded, that our next STaC be scheduled for January 31, 2000 - February 6, 2000. Motion carried. STaC Coordinator George Nichols advised that specific events for this tournament will have to be discussed at a later board meeting.

NOVICE TROPHIES - Gwen Beckman moved, Kitty Altman

seconded that each Unit 160 sectional tournament be allowed a maximum of 18 trophies to be awarded for their novice events. Motion carried.

GNT (Grand National Teams) - Spencer Hurd moved and Charlie Lohfeld seconded that Unit 160 go on record with District 7 (through its GNT Coordinator Liz Swanson) as supporting District GNT Quarter/Semi-Finals held in conjunction with a sectional tournament late in March or early in April of each year (the West Columbia Tournament would be ideal!). Motion carried. (Secretary will notify Liz Swanson of this recommendation.)

PRESIDENT NICHOLS advised the board that Legion of Service guidelines are badly needed.

TOURNAMENT ASSISTANT - George advised the board that there could be a possible savings on cost of directing staff for our sectional tournaments. ACBL now has a designation of "Tournament Assistant." By viewing a video and passing a test, a local director can become a Tournament Assistant and could be used to carry out some of the less demanding details of tournament directing, thus saving the cost of a full ACBL director. Board members are encouraged to let their sectional tournament chairs know about this new development. We must help each other find ways to keep the costs of sectional tournaments from escalating beyond the reach of some of our local sponsors.

George also told the board of a retired ACBL tournament director who has recently moved to Aiken (Allen Brooks). Having a nearby director also helps with tournament director costs.

CAMDEN SECTIONAL - will be the site of the unit's 1998 awards presentation: Mini-McKenney, Silver Point Trophy, Chester Ward and Morrison Myrick winners. George gave all board members a list of 1998 Unit 160 Mini-McKenney and "Ace of Clubs" winners.

1998 "Ace of Club" winners will be recognized at the local clubs where they play. President Nichols is personally visiting clubs around the state and will be able to make some of these presentations himself.

UEC (Unit Electronic Contact) is Mike Bitonti. Mike announced to the board that any unit 160 club that wants to announce its games or special events can have someone locally create a web page and the Unit will "Host" this page, including it on the Unit's web site and also passing it on to ACBL's web site. Mike gave board members copies of typical information found on the Unit's web site: names, addresses and phone numbers of all Unit officers and board members; a list of our 27 Unit 160 Hall of Fame Members; a list of our Unit 160 sectional tournaments. He hopes to also have a list of "Legion of Service" members,



lists of Unit 160 diamond and gold life masters, and the current issue of the unit newsletter PALMETTO PRE-EMPTS. Board members are encouraged to let their constituents know "we" can be found on the net at [www.scbridge.org](http://www.scbridge.org).

1999 ACBL MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION - George gave each board member an outline of this new ACBL program, explaining that much information and participation is being demanded of all ACBL units. George has appointed four "Membership Retention Area Coordinators" (MRAC's) for Unit 160: Piedmont, Janet Weir; Central, DaMaris Rorie; Eastern, Evelyn Brandon; and Southern, Kitty Altman. Board members are urged to be cheerfully cooperative when any of these MRAC's requests their assistance in providing information to ACBL. Our ACBL "membership" revenue could depend upon our performance in this new program.

INTERMEDIATE/NOVICE ("IN") Sectional Tournament Requirements - one of ACBL's ten suggestions for retaining the "IN" crowd is to offer a speaker program on Friday and Saturday afternoons of sectional tournaments. George asked board members to recommend unit players for this project. George will write to each recommendee for permission to include this person on our list of tournament speakers. The following names were offered: Larry Allen, Giles Belski, Anne Blatz, Chafford Brown, Hugh Brown, Richard Brown, Allen Brooks, Betty Burt, Richard Guarneri, Wayne Hollingsworth, John Hurd, Spencer Hurd, Martin Johnson, Brian Lipscomb, Mark McLaughlin, Hap Neuffer, George Nichols, Tom Rutledge, Marvin Shatz, Fred White, Gloria Wilson, and Jeff Ziemer. Once the list is compiled, tournament chairs will be encouraged to arrange one or two speakers for their tournaments.

Board members were reminded that of Unit 160's 1,720 members, players with 0 - 100 masterpoints number 791. Our retention effort certainly should include methods of targeting this large group of Unit 160 members.

#### SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Batesburg-Leesville - New Unit 160 board member, new Batesburg-Leesville Club Manager, and new Batesburg-Leesville 2000 Tournament Chairman Charlie Toal reported that they were going to continue to make every effort to "grow" this popular tournament and to increase membership in their local club.

Charleston - Tournament Chair Kitty Altman proudly reported that their tournament table count was up by sixty tables!! Flyers had been sent to all clubs around the state, and a big effort was made to attract local players to play in the tournament. The events of the novice

section had between seven and ten tables - very commendable. Kitty reported that she had been able to easily implement four of the ACBL's ten recommendations for "IN" players at her tournament, even though she had had almost no notice.

West Columbia - Tournament Chair DaMaris Rorie made a concerted effort to make her "IN" crowd feel welcome. She had an average of nine tables in the "IN" sections, with rave reviews for their royal treatment. Overall, her table count for the full tournament was up by 36 tables.

STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 1999-2000 - each member was given a copy of President Nichols' proposed appointments. If any of the nominees finds it impossible to serve in this capacity, please let George know immediately. If he hears nothing by April 15, he will consider the appointments binding.

#### FUTURE WORK OF THE BOARD

Budget - due to our continuing restricted sources of income, we must take a serious look at the Unit's annual expenses.

"Legion of Service" Guidelines must be adopted.

By-Laws should be updated.

Appeals Committee - George gave each board member a printout of ACBL's "Guidelines for Tournament Appeals Committees"

ADJOURNMENT: 1:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia L. Webb  
Unit Secretary

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Our next meeting will be on Saturday, June 11, of the Columbia Regional between the afternoon and evening sessions. Please make every effort to attend; our Unit is busier than ever as we attempt to help the ACBL turn the tide on dwindling membership.  
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