

**ACBL Unit 179 Board Meeting**  
**February 2017 Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**Vanderbilt Bridge Club/ Nashville, TN**

**Date:** February 26, 2017

**Board Members:**

*Present:* David Birnbaum, Peggy Burkhalter, Walter Brostrom, Chris Clark, Charlynn Foust, Anne Hitt, Betsy Keeling, Barbara Moomy, Linda Murdock, Pat Williams

*Absent:* Jim Bass, Tommy Boze, Dianne Sussman

*Others Present:*

Secretary: Alison Gembar

Treasurer: Sue Atwood

Tournament Coordinator: Coley McGinnis

**Proceedings:**

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Welcome new board members: Peggy Burkhalter, Linda Murdock, Barbara Moomy, Anne Hitt (re-elected)

October 2016 minutes were reviewed and adjusted. Minimum room nights adjusted to 480. Minutes were approved

**Sue Atwood: Treasurers Report**

- Presented October 2016 tournament financial reports and table count information.
- Discussion of items Unit Board provides (tables, youth education fund)
- Presented 2016 Annual Report.

***OLD BUSINESS***

**Charlynn Foust – Development of Unit 179 Website Report**

Charlynn presented an update of the research of website development. Areas of research include: Talking to other units, what they are doing, Unit budget, expectations, browser, hosting website, what website should look like, items to put on website, using website in lieu of printing bulletins.

1<sup>st</sup> year requires fee for hosting site and annual fee thereafter. Desire for site to be user-friendly, (fewer clicks). Hire someone to develop? Then take over the site ourselves?

Start-up cost is about \$250, then \$106 for 3 years, then \$48/year thereafter (today's prices).

Need a credit card and email account to pay for services automatically. Charlynn will check on payment methods to set up.

Motion to approve \$300 for 1<sup>st</sup> year investment to set up website. Motion approved.

### **David Birnbaum – Youth Memberships**

Unit 179 has paid for 7 Youth Memberships based on Youth class attendance requirements. David has discovered that bulletins are not being mailed to the students as part of their memberships. ACBL offered to mail bulletins to member to distribute to youth. ACBL is basically collecting email addresses. We are interested in having players receive material and play at our local clubs. ACBL does offer bulletins online. Youth members may not have online access handy. (ACBL requires an adult to enroll children under age 14). Russ Jones (District President) has offered to support our view if we submit something in writing, requesting bulletins be mailed to Youth members. David is requesting support from Unit to represent a change to ACBL to offer an option to pay more to receive bulletins. There is currently not an option for Youth members to receive, or not receive, the bulletins. This would require an ACBL change in software which David will pursue with board members support. Motion approved.

We would like to grow the Youth program locally. Free classes are advertised in our education schedule. We hope to advertise the class on our upcoming Unit website.

If you have any ideas for advertising please bring them to the next meeting.

### **Pat Williams: Regional July 2017 status report**

- McKenzie (new director) has visited and surveyed the space, he was pleased.
- Hotel
  - Hotel is moving us to 2 smaller ballrooms since a wedding has been booked same week. Sheraton is installing extra lighting in the ballrooms we will now be using.
  - Hotel is remodeling. Construction will not be visible and apparent. It is suppose to be complete in June.
  - Pat has had a lot of people volunteer to help and he will be calling on them in the near future.
  - Next 2 bulletins will have advertisement promoting our tournament.
  - Our hotel rate is very low for Nashville. This is a great deal for bridge-goers

- David has asked future tournament-goers to carry flyers.
- Charlynn suggested we wear buttons. They should be fairly cheap to make. David will have buttons made. Tournament will cover button expense.

Coley McGinnis – Tournament Coordinator

- Duties: Scheduling of tournaments, assigning tournament chairs, ensuring tournament events are the best they can be.
- Upcoming events: NLM Sectional (club), July Regional, October Sectional
- Tournament committee is reviewing schedule for 2021-2024. (We are sanctioned through 2019). Coley will not put our requests in until after the July 4<sup>th</sup> regional, to see if July 4<sup>th</sup> is a successful turnout. This current tournament table count is down by 40 tables.

Discussion ensued of scheduling Knock Outs, handicapping KO's and Swiss Team competitions, Stratiflighted games (points are no longer awarded for ALL tables in the room). (ACBL now awards more points to pair games as a result of changes over time). Scheduling dynamics are changing.

Bottom line – people want more choices for games. There are a lot of things to consider: masterpoints awarded (and how), how big your tournament is, schedule limitations, accommodating as many as you can for the breadth of our membership.

Coley will continue to work with scheduling. However, he expressed his desire to train others to assume the Tournament Coordinator position in the future.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**David Birnbaum - QUIPP report**

We are now the largest unit in our District. We have surpassed Hot Springs.

We are 30<sup>th</sup> largest District in ACBL

We do suffer retention of members in 2<sup>nd</sup> year. We need to continue to grow to overcome this.

We will continue to watch this report. QUIPP report will now be forwarded to Board Members each time it is received from ACBL.

**YOUTH MEMBER FUND**

Request to replenish \$1000 to Youth Fund Budget

Motion presented. Motion approved.

### **Election of Officers**

David Birnbaum was elected as President of the Board.

Chris Clark was elected as Vice President of the Board.

Sue Atwood was re-elected as Treasurer of the Board.

### **Honorarium for Secretary of Board**

Motion to approve \$150 per month honorarium for Unit Secretary.

Motion approved.

Motion to Adjourn. Motion Approved.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 pm