

**ACBL Unit 179 Board Meeting
October 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Online via "Zoom"**

Date: October 10, 2024

Board Members:

Present: Larry Averbuch, David Cochener, Beth Derrick, Bob Dietrick, Ann Gibson, Karen Kendrick, Carol Schnaars, David Smithfield, Suzanne Torrence, Patrick Williams, Mickey Wilson.

Absent: Michelle Coop

Others Present:

Secretary: Alison Gembar

Proceedings:

Meeting was called to order at 5:00

Administrative business:

Minutes for board meetings were presented:
June 27, 2024

Motion to approve minutes.

Motion approved.

Treasurer report

Mickey's report:

We still have receipts and proceeds that have not been turned in for our most recent tournament, so the final numbers are not available.

We paid Vanderbilt Bridge Club \$6182.25 table fees

Free plays were \$3080.00 (players under 299 mp's). There were about 225 free plays

Every single one of Larry Hayes students attended the tournament; some for the first time.

Mickey would like to do a tournament variance/budget report once he has all tournament expenses & revenue reported; to compare to prior tournament.

We have \$40,000 in the bank and have accrued about \$1000 in interest earnings since we changed our bank account,

Mickey has the paperwork completed to incorporate the Unit. We will be filing for our 501c3 status beginning of next week.

Committee Reports

Tournament Committee – Pat Williams, Chairperson

- We have tournaments scheduled for 2 years and will be scheduling more soon.
- We have had a Regional for at least 3 years in a row now so we are in a position to host a Regional tournament annually.
- Our earnings are down for the most recent tournament:
- Regional turnout is down 15%; our last tournament was understaffed (because our last tournament was overstaffed)
- Additionally, David Birnbaum was not available to help with directing (would have been cost savings)
- 2023 we had an online game (72 tables) that ran in conjunction with the live tournament. We made over \$2000 on that portion of the tournament. Our tournament that just completed only had 16 tables that competed online; we budgeted it would be 70. The budgeted income was \$3000. This time neither mid-flight nor open game “made”, so this is a cash shortfall from what was budgeted.

Disciplinary Committee – Beth Derrick, Chairperson
nothing to report at this time.

Membership & Retention Committee – Carol Schnaars, Chairperson

- Karen and Carol have been reaching out to people whose membership is about to expire.
- Drafting letter for “Guest Membership” information. Free membership for 120 days, then reduced rate to become a member and the “guests” can earn up to 20 masterpoints during that time.

Branding Committee – Ann Gibson, Chairperson

- Sent Newsletter to all satellite clubs in the Unit. The “Guest Membership” information was included in email sent to Directors prior to the tournament.
- Going to new clubs:
Hillwood in October
Hendersonville in November

Ann would like to visit the Belle Meade club soon.

Ann will write quarterly newsletter to go on the Unit 179 website. Request that all Committee chairs send a submission for the newsletter

Ann also requests a list of New Life Masters for the newsletter from Pat Williams

Suzanne Torrence – ACBL & District 10 updates

>NAP stratification changes upcoming:

Flight C: 0-750 non-life master

Flight B: upper limit is going from 2500 to 3000

Flight A: 3000+

>EDGAR (Electronic Data Gathering and Anti-cheating Radar, also Everyone Deserves a Game Above Reproach)

More improvements and activity for this program. This is not about making a wacky bid and being flagged. Instead of identifying single hands that look suspicious in a vacuum, EDGAR will be able to identify whether funny-looking bridge decisions are representative of a larger pattern or constitute a one-off aberration.

All members of ACBL have received an email about EDGAR. It is worth reading and knowing the details in case members of our Unit have questions.

>ACBL membership is stabilizing for the first time since COVID

>Four STAC's are scheduled for our District (10) for 2025.

One in January, June, September & December

Nominating Committee: David Cochener and Larry Averbuch

We have 4 open spots and 7 people willing to run

Candidates:

In-County (Unrestricted)

David Cochener

David Smithfield

Mickey Wilson

Mary Pepper

Randy Held

Jim Rich

Out-of-County (Restricted)

Ken Athon

Jon Young

Motion to accept nominating committee candidates above for upcoming election.

Motion approved.

Biographies and photographs are to be sent to Unit Secretary (Alison)

New Business – Suzanne Torrence

Unit President Monthly Call:

Conference Direct consulted with ACBL. Hotels define contracts now; they are booked and have less availability. Hotels are less flexible on concessions and name the conditions. Hotels guest rooms are at an all time high in occupancy and costs. They are adding resort fees, meeting room fees, guest fees, food and beverage fees. All this to say that Hotel contracts are not as desirable as they use to be. Just know this in case members are inquiring about tournament lodging changes from the past.

ACBL provides D&O Policy for our Unit. The coverage was discussed (bodily injury and property damage; allegations of financial misuse). This covers tournament games, not club games.

Suzanne requests that everyone consider these items for 2025:

What would you like to see for 2025? Goals, what we have accomplished; any of your ideas.

Suggestion: Award luncheon hosted by Unit. Celebrate award winners, hand out awards and certificates.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion approved

Meeting adjourned 6:25 pm