

Unit 191 Board: Minutes of Meeting on November 18, 2024

Members Present: Ann Fisher, Deanna Larus, Phylliss Woody, Ira Mueller, Bill Ingram, Eric Hamilton, Ian Cloudsdale, Michael Lavine, Mary Newman Absent: Barbara Bute, Gail King

Ann called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm. Ann distributed a copy of the minutes from the October meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes, it was seconded, and the motion was carried.

Ann distributed copies of Ian's **Treasurer's Report**. There was a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, it was seconded, and the motion was carried. The Unit is projecting a balance of just under \$26,000 when the fiscal year ends on 11/30. Ian highlighted the profit realized from the fall sectional of \$1177, mostly as a result of the reduced cost of renting Old Murphey School. Some additional costs were incurred for signage and hospitality because of the new venue, but these were offset by the \$1 increase in session fees. Overall attendance was down slightly for indeterminate reasons.

Phylliss submitted the **Membership Committee** report via email. Current membership stands at 498.

There was a lengthy discussion about the fall tournament. Overall, the reactions of the board members were positive, that the tournament went about as well as could be hoped. All were in agreement that the venue was not ideal and that a search will continue for a more viable space. But if none can be found, having the tournament at Old Murphey School Road is better than not having a tournament at all. It should be noted that if we change to another venue requiring us to bring both tables and chairs, the logistics and manpower required will be much larger than having to provide the tables alone.

We all heard comments from the tournament participants that ranged from the new place was great to that it was horrible. The two main problems were the noise in the main playing room and the decreasing light as dusk approached. This led us to move and unanimously approve the cancellation of the February tournament for two main reasons: it gives us time to look for another venue and it backs right up to the Hilton Head Regional and our Sunday Swiss Team game could suffer as those heading to Hilton Head would likely be driving there on Sunday. Gail and Ira will cancel the February tournament.

The Board decided to move our holiday gala to a winter date in January or February 2025 (possibly a Valentine's party if we deem we need a theme). We could also have our general meeting at that time. Bill Ingram and Ira Mueller will make suggestions for revisions to the Unit ByLaws at the January Board meeting and any changes could be voted on by the membership at the holiday party/general meeting.

As a general rule, the first Monday and third Friday of each month will be declared Unit Championship games. This is not a hard and fast rule and could be changed as other special games present.

Ian has offered to look into some program that we might be able to use to help people looking for partners. We are missing out on people who want to play but cannot find partners and this is a service we feel we ought to be able to provide.

The Board approved the addition of Joanna Karwowska to the Board for one year to complete Janet Strobe's term.

The next Board Meeting is Monday, December 9th after the open game

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm
Submitted by Mary Newman