

Unit 116 Western New York of the ACBL

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors (approved)

January 8, 2016

Bridge Center of Buffalo, Amherst, NY

Members present: Carol Bedell, Howard Foster, Jim Gullo, Chip Kean, Elaine Kurasiewicz, Betty Metz, Dian Petrov, Tova Reinhorn, Paul Zittel

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Metz at 2:25 p.m.

1. The **minutes** of the meeting of December 11, 2015, previously distributed by email, were approved as corrected.
2. The **Treasurer's Report** covering the period 11/25/15 to 1/3/16, previously distributed by email, was accepted. The balance was \$14,638, down from \$15,256 at the beginning of the period.
3. **Correspondence.** From ACBL: There are new guidelines on dealing with money at sectionals. The TD will not have cash. The Unit must provide up-front money for change. At the end of each day the TD will give funds received to a designated representative of the Unit. Also, it will be up to us to provide a check for table fees due to ACBL, rather than the TD's sending a personal check. These will be additional responsibilities for the Sectional Chairs. Tova has already had an exchange with Alex Bealles regarding cash needs for the upcoming winter sectional.

District 5 has money available for charity. Any individual can request that a donation be made to a particular charity. Betty will send this correspondence to Dian for posting on the web site and to Judie Bailey for the Buff.

ACBL is introducing additional designations for point achievements (at 1,500 and 3,500). These will be announced in the Buff.

ACBL game fees are going up.

ACBL will now send out two email blasts on upcoming sectionals (up from the current one blast). They send the information to all members in whatever districts we choose. Our choices have been our own, the one that includes Rochester, and the one that includes Ontario.

ACBL has advised that BCB and Airport have proposed to offer special ACBL games at their clubs later in the year and has asked the Board whether the Unit has any objection. We have no objection.

4. **Committee Reports:**

Web Site. It is up to date. Some Board members have received requests that the Unit post full reports for Unit games. Dian indicated that he can do that if the directors send him an html file for this purpose.

Fifth Column. Dian has been writing a column on Unit happenings for this District 5 newsletter for some time. Howard has indicated a willingness to prepare a column from information already provided in the Buff, which will cover only some issues of the newsletter as the Buff comes out less frequently than the newsletter. It is not clear how many Unit members actually read this column, as it is available only electronically. Howard and Dian will work out an arrangement.

Unit Coordinator. Sanctions have been obtained for the Pro-Am game and for the three sectionals in 2017.

Sunshine. Tova reported that three cards were sent since the last meeting.

Game Supplies. Chip has purchased replacement batteries for the BridgeMates. He is also getting up to speed on using the card-dealing machine.

Refreshment Supplies. Paul reported that he has laid in abundant supplies for the sectional and will give them to Elaine.

Publicity. Carol will send information on the sectional to the Buffalo News.

Education. Carol provided a report on her initial research into getting bridge into schools. She is aiming for implementation of a plan in September, and she is gathering information on what others have done. She has checked out the ACBL web site, and she will be going to Cleveland and trying to touch base with someone involved with a bridge program in that area. Chris Urbanek, who is on the District 5 board and covers education, will also be going to Cleveland. Carol has also contacted a counselor in Lancaster (and former colleague) about the possibility of doing something there, and she spoke with a staffer at ACBL about resources available. It is a work in progress.

Elections. Tova is storing supplies received from Liz Clark. At the last election certain issues arose regarding the handling of ballot problems. Jim Gullo, who will be handling elections this year, will report to the Board on the rules he proposes to follow.

5. **Old Business:**

Annual Meeting. There is an updated financial report for the 2015 Annual Meeting. There was a loss of \$459, a bit more than the \$387 reported in the previous minutes, and about the same as last year.

Post Office Box. A key seems to be missing. There was some discussion of whether the Unit actually needs this box. The reason to have it is that Unit officers are sometimes away and there needs to be a place where correspondence can be received and accessed.

Winter Sectional. Elaine raised some questions about the upcoming sectional. (1) Some players have asked why there are no double sessions. Historically, double sessions have caused problems for directors in the winter sectionals particularly (there are double sessions in the other sectionals), but with the better technology now available (including BridgeMates) we should revisit. (2) We will be missing a partnership chair as Jerry Geiger will not be there. The Board determined that it is too late to obtain a replacement as Jerry's name is on the publicity. Dian agreed to take phone calls and emails about partnerships.

Pro-Am Game is scheduled for February 28 at BCB. Eugene Harvey will direct.

6. **New Business:**

Audit Report. Discussion deferred.

BridgeMate Agreement with Meridian/Lockport. Discussion deferred. Current Agreement continues in the interim.

2016 Calendar. Betty noted that the week tentatively adopted by the Board for club-hosted Unit games (March 14-20) conflicts with other ACBL events. She suggested alternatives, and the Board determined that these games will be held instead during the week of May 15-21. Unit games for the year are as follows:

January 22-24	Sectional at Main-Transit
February 28	Pro-Am at BCB
March	TBD. Possibly with St. Patrick's Day theme. Howard will inquire of Airport BC.
April 8-10	Sectional at Main-Transit
May 15-21	Club-hosted games
June 11	Strawberry Social at Lockport Bridge Club
July 8-9	Non-Master Sectional at BCB
July 24	Picnic at Erie County Fairgrounds
August	TBD. Howard will inquire of Airport BC.
September	Sectional at Main-Transit
October	None (Buffalo Regional)
November	TBD. Howard will inquire of Airport BC.
December 3	Annual Meeting at Main-Transit

7. **Next Board Meeting:** February 12, 2016, 2:00 p.m., at BCB.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Foster, Secretary