

Unit 116 Western New York of the ACBL
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors (approved)

June 17, 2016

Bridge Center of Buffalo, Amherst, NY

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

Members Absent: Jim Gullo, Chip Kean,

Guest: Judie Bailey

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Metz at 2:10 p.m.

1. The **minutes** of the meeting of May 6, 2016, previously distributed by email, were approved.
2. The **Treasurer's Report** covering the period 5/3/16 to 6/14/16, previously distributed by email, was accepted. The balance was \$15,674, down from \$18,008 at the beginning of the period. The lower balance reflects payments for site deposits, the new bridge-education program, and insurance. The report was accepted by the Board.
3. **Correspondence.** Betty noted that any ACBL member can log in to the ACBL web site to access discount cards for various merchants, including Office Max/Depot. This service should be used for printing jobs ordered for Unit purposes.

Dian reported that he, as Tournament Coordinator, had received notice from ACBL that Unit 166 (Brampton ON) has proposed to schedule a sectional at the same time as one of ours. The Board determined that we should offer no objection.

4. **Committee Reports:**

Buff. Judie reported that the next Buff will be out imminently. It will be eight pages long and go on line over the weekend. Later there will be a shortened "Election Issue" in September (deadline: August 29) and a regular issue in October (deadline: September 24).

Fifth Column. The Unit had no entry in the June issue of this bi-monthly electronic newsletter of Region 5. Entries are based on information published in the Buff, and there was no Buff between March and May. Howard will prepare an entry for the August issue of Fifth Column.

Unit Tournament Coordinator. Dian reported that two of the sanctions obtained for the Unit-Game week in May were not used: Saturday morning and Sunday. Two sanctions for Unit games remain unassigned for the remainder of 2016.

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

Electronic Contact. Judie reported that she has received the in-and-out report from ACBL and will make it available to any interested Board member.

Refreshment Supplies. Paul asked that the Unit obtain a membership at Restaurant Depot, which would allow us to purchase supplies at a discounted rate.

Publicity. Carol sent information to the Buffalo News about bridge lessons that the Unit will be sponsoring (see below). She will also submit information on the upcoming NLM Sectional and the Unit Picnic.

Membership. Two new members since the last meeting. Welcome packets have been sent.

Education. Carol updated the Board on progress on three upcoming Unit initiatives to promote bridge in the schools. (1) In July and August Christy Kellogg will be teaching a beginner class at BCB to middle-school students. Four tables are anticipated. The students will be asked if they are interested in continuing with lessons in the Fall, and if so arrangements will be made. (2) Recruitment has started for weekly lessons at the Tapestry Charter School in Buffalo, to be taught by Carol and Elaine starting on September 29. (3) Also in the Fall Donna Steffan will be teaching a bridge class at Transit Middle School as an extra-curricular activity.

Carol has recruited 18 volunteers to serve as “bridge buddies,” experienced players who will work with the students at their tables. She is also organizing support groups for teachers to share their ideas and experiences. Unit members are showing great interest in this program.

5. **Old Business:**

Directory. Judie reported that the 2016 Directory is nearing completion. Several Board members have graciously called Unit members to solicit information and permissions. Howard has obtained several printing estimates, and he and Judie agreed that we should go with Latko for both price and quality of service. Since there are still some unknowns about content the final cost can only be estimated. Paul moved that the Board approve an expenditure of up to \$350 for 250 B&W copies of the Directory, and that they be sold for \$2.00 (same price as the 2013 version). Last time we printed 200 copies and they ran out. Motion passed.

After Judie left, the Board discussed extending a formal recognition for the exceptional and very demanding service she has rendered in putting together the 2016 Unit Directory, along with her other contributions. It was moved that the Unit convey, with its profound thanks, an honorarium of \$150 to Judie in gratitude for her efforts. Motion passed without dissent.

Strawberry Social. The Board received by email Dian’s financial report on the event, which generated a surplus of \$133. There were 17 tables, which, because of a wedding in the ballroom of the Senior Center, were squeezed into two smaller rooms and corridors. Dian deftly managed the logistics.

Tova raised a question about publishing full game results through the Common Game and BCB. Dian noted that he used an alternative method that allowed most of the information available through

the Common-Game format to be published without using BCB's services. Paul moved the adoption of a requirement that, effective July 1, the full Common-Game format be used for all Unit-sponsored pairs games, and that clubs and directors hosting Unit games be expected to comply with this requirement. The motion passed with one dissent. Dian noted that under these circumstances he would not be hosting the Barometer Pairs game at Meridian in October. Whether this game will be offered at another location will be determined later.

Betty then moved that BridgeMates be used in "tournament mode" (*i.e.*, no displaying results at other tables). No vote was taken.

Upcoming Events. Plans for the NLM Sectional at BCB, the Unit Picnic at the Hamburg Fairgrounds, the Eight Is Enough Game at the Airport Bridge Club, and the Fall Sectional at Main-Transit are proceeding apace.

Betty noted that she had sent emails to directors regarding the Board's wish that Common-Game results be published for pairs games sponsored by the Unit. She had heard from most directors that they had no problem doing that, but no response had been received from Bill Finkelstein. Betty will notify Bill that the Unit game scheduled at Airport on November 6 will therefore be a one-session Swiss teams event.

Free Play Policy. Betty presented her thoughts regarding guidelines for the awarding and use of free plays. The Board discussed and adopted the following rules:

- one free play for up to two chairs of Unit games
- two free plays per day for chairs of sectionals
- one free play per day for partnership chair for sectionals
- one free play for at least two items of baked goods
- one free play for all-day workers doing set-up, clean-up, etc.
- free plays given to chairs may be used in the future; free plays given to others must be used at that event only (including at Unit games)
- free plays may not be used as prizes

Mentor Program. Dian updated the Board on the launch of this program. As previously adopted, under this program the Unit will pay for five open games at clubs or Unit events, including sectionals. After playing the five games, the mentor will submit a coupon for review by Dian and payment by Tova. The deadline for 2016 enrollment has passed, and 22 pairs have been formed, with five additional "mentees" waiting for mentors. The estimated total cost of the program is \$1,000. Games must be played between July 1 and December 31. The Board will later determine whether to extend the program into 2017.

6. **New Business:**

2017 Picnic. Paul noted that the Fairgrounds has raised its rental rate significantly, and in addition is requiring new insurance stipulations that would be costly to us. The Board will seek out an alternative venue for the 2017 picnic. Tentative date is August 20.

Lending/Renting BridgeMates. Betty received an inquiry from Brian Meyer about using the Unit's BridgeMates for a game he is directing. Because of schedule conflicts we could not accommodate

the request anyway, but Betty sought the Board's views on whether we should be willing to lend out the devices in the future. After some discussion it was moved that the Unit will generally allow its devices to be used under the following conditions: we must know the director well; the director agrees to take full responsibility for the care of the units and to return them in good condition; the user will pay \$0.50 per device per day; Unit 116 clubs always have first priority for use of the BridgeMates; and all is subject to the devices' availability. The motion passed.

District Meeting. Dian attended and reported on the last District meeting in Cleveland.

7. **Next Board Meeting:** July 22, 2016, 2:00 p.m., at BCB.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Foster, Secretary