

Unit 116 Western New York of the ACBL
Minutes of Annual Meeting of Unit Members (approved)

December 3, 2016

Main-Transit Fire Hall, Amherst, NY

Attending: about 100 Unit members including Board members Carol Bedell, , Howard Foster, Jim Gullo, Chip Kean, Elaine Kurasiewicz, Betty Metz, Dian Petrov, and Paul Zittel.

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Metz at 12:50 p.m.

1. **President's Welcome.** **Betty Metz** welcomed the members to the Annual Meeting and introduced the members of the 2016 Board of Directors. She also introduced Judie Bailey, who produces the Unit's newsletter and performs many other valuable services for the Unit.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** In the absence of Treasurer **Tova Reinhorn**, Betty reported on the Unit's finances, which were set forth in the 2016 Annual Report prepared by Tova. A table of income and expenses for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 was also distributed, along with a chart showing total income and expenses for the past five years. In summary, income for the past year was \$27,473 and expenses were \$25,291, resulting in a surplus of \$2,182. The balance in the treasury at the end of the year was about \$17,438, compared to about \$15,256 at the end of last year.
3. **Volunteer Hall of Fame.** **Elaine Kurasiewicz** reported that the Board has designated **Pat Lakeman** as Volunteer of the Year, in recognition of her longstanding and unstinting contributions in recruiting, organizing and directing those members who prepare home-baked refreshments for Unit events.
4. **In Memoriam.** Elaine also read a list of members who died during the past year and asked for a minute of silence. The deceased members include: Bob Anderson, Lou Babb, Susan Barnes, Frank Belz, Gina Campbell, Mary Costello, Gayle Cryan, Robert Alan Davis, Ron Ferguson, Lou Lorenzo, Harry Meyers, Bob Olin, Parimal Pal, Joe Peters, Frank Schlehr, Marge Schomers, and Bao Xie.
5. **Life Master Milestones.** Judie Bailey reported on the rank distribution of members at the end of the year, along with new achievements during the year. Members who achieved life-master milestones in 2016 included:

Life Master: Beena Deshmukh, Madhav Deshmukh, Dave Donaldson, Ron Fill, Ron Henrikson, Chip Kean, John Welte, Martha Welte

Bronze Life Master: Sharon Chang, Sandra England, Howard Foster, Joyce Greenspan, Jan Hasselbeck, Jim Jones, Usha Khurana, Tom Koralewski, Gary Schmitt, Larry Soong.

Silver Life Master: Shakeel Ahmad, Bill Boardman, Carol Bedell, Manju Ceylomy, Davis Heussler, Nancy Kessler, Judy Kaprove, Roth Kozower, Art Matthies, Tova Reinhorn, Joe Rooney, Linda Vassallo

Ruby Life Master: Dorothy May

Gold Life Master: Dave Hemmer, Mark Pacale

Sapphire Life Master: Dian Petrov

Diamond Life Master: Saleh Fatouh

Emerald Life Master: Jay Levy

Judie also noted that a number of members were placed in ranks that were newly created in January 2016. There were 25 members immediately placed in the rank of Ruby Life Master (1500 points) and 9 placed in the rank of Sapphire Life Master (3500 points).

6. **Elections.** Nominating Committee Chair **Jim Gullo** announced that the Committee's nominees for three openings on the Board for 2017 were unopposed. They are Sue Neubecker, Gay Simpson, and Denise Slattery, who are elected by acclamation. They will replace Howard Foster, Elaine Kurasiewicz, and Dian Petrov. There will be a joint meeting of the old Board and the new Board on Friday, December 16.
7. **Mentoring Program.** Betty reported that this program, spearheaded by **Dian Petrov**, has had a successful launch, with 20 mentors and 28 mentees. Through this program the Unit pays the mentor's entry fees for five open games at the club or unit level. The Board has determined to continue the program during the first half of 2017. Program rules are on the Unit's website.
8. **Student Lessons.** The Unit sponsored several youth teaching programs during 2016. There were 16 students in a summer beginners' program taught at BCB and taught by **Christy Kellogg**, which culminated in a mini-tournament. Twelve of these students enrolled in a follow-up program taught in the Fall by **Jim Gullo** and **Fred Yellen**. And another beginners' program taught by **Donna Steffan** was offered in the Fall at Transit Middle School and attracted 10-12 students. In addition to the teachers, the classes benefitted from the enthusiastic assistance of a number of "bridge buddies" who gave tips and filled in at the tables. Expenses for these programs are subsidized by District 5.
9. **Dupli-Swiss.** Team games at recent sectionals featured pre-dealt boards and hand records. This innovation was proposed and implemented by **Dave Hemmer**. It will be continued at the Winter Sectional in January, and to that end the Unit has purchased additional boards to make the dealing easier. At the Winter Sectional the organizers have also arranged for a food truck to conveniently serve players between sessions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Foster, Secretary