

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

February 12, 2016

Bridge Center of Buffalo, Amherst, NY

Members present: Howard Foster, Jim Gullo, Elaine Kurasiewicz, Betty Metz, Paul Zittel

Members absent: Carol Bedell, Chip Kean, Dian Petrov, Tova Reinhorn

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Metz at 2:35 p.m.

1. The **minutes** of the meeting of January 8, 2016, previously distributed by email, were approved as corrected.
2. The **Treasurer's Report** covering the period 1/4/16 to 1/31/16, previously distributed by email, was accepted. The balance was \$15,636, up from \$14,638 at the beginning of the period.
3. **Correspondence.** Betty distributed the District 5 Director's Report for December 2015, which among other things outlined increases in the ACBL's regional and sectional fees, STaC fees, open sectional surcharge, TD session fees, and club per-table fees, all effective 4/1/16. There was some discussion of whether the Unit should increase its game registration fees to cover these increases, but the consensus was that the Unit's treasury is healthy enough to absorb the increases without burdening players.

4. **Committee Reports:**

Buff. Firm deadline is March 11 for material for the next issue, which will come out shortly thereafter.

Fifth Column. Howard will prepare submissions from Unit 116 based on material appearing in the Buff.

Unit Tournament Coordinator. Dian has obtained sanctions for all club-run unit games during the week of May 15-21. Betty will send notices to clubs. Dian has also obtained sanctions for the Strawberry Social at Lockport on June 11; the NLM Sectional at BCB on July 8 and 9; the Unit picnic at the Fairgrounds on July 24; and the Annual Meeting at Main-Transit on December 3. Sanctions still need to be obtained for games at Airport BC on August 14 and November 6.

Sunshine. Six cards were sent since the last meeting.

Publicity. Carol sent notified the Buffalo News (Dale Anderson) about the upcoming Taste of Buffalo Pro-Am game on February 28.

Membership. Three new members were reported since the last meeting. Welcome notices will be sent.

Education. Paul noted that a club in Florida at which he played recently has a program to introduce school children to bridge. The club provides the teachers. Carol is working on a plan for a similar pilot program at a local middle school, using a book called "Teach Me to Play." Betty noted again that grant money is available from both ACBL and District 5 to support such a program. Paul suggested that the Unit appropriate a sum of money from which Carol could draw to cover any expenses not paid by grant money. The Board members present were generally receptive to this idea.

5. **Old Business:**

Post Office Box. The key to our P.O. Box has still not been located. Betty will obtain a new key. Paul moved that the P.O. Box be used as the official address of the Unit for all business rather than the home addresses of Unit officers, as in the past. The motion carried (5-0).

Winter Sectional. Elaine distributed by email both the Financial Report and the Hospitality Report for the Sectional. There were 136 tables, and a net profit of \$1,450. Profit was lower than last year mainly because we had to use an out-of-town director, with attendant expenses. Player reactions to the hospitality were very favorable. The chili and sundaes were well received, although providing the refreshments generally involved a lot of work and contributions from many people. The Financial Report was updated to reflect the number of free plays *used*, not the number distributed. Elaine provided a list of players who received Discussion deferred due to deteriorating weather.

Flyers have been distributed for the **Taste of Buffalo Pro-Am Game** scheduled for February 28 at BCB. Eugene Harvey will direct, and prizes will be awarded for the best appetizer, main dish, and dessert. Jim will start making calls soon.

April Sectional. To be held on April 8-10 at Main-Transit. Paul will run and Brian Meyer will direct. Paul was reminded that we now need to provide seed money for the director, to be obtained from Tova.

Unit Calendar. Theme, format and stewardship of games at Airport on August 14 and November 6 need to be firmed up. It was moved that the August 14 game be an "Eight Is Enough" team game. Motion carried; chair to be determined. It was suggested that the November 6 game have an election theme, to which the Board members present were receptive, although further planning is necessary, and a chair needs to be determined.

Audit Report. Discussion deferred due to deteriorating weather.

6. **New Business:**

NYS Tax Exempt Status. We cannot be tax exempt in NYS.

Free Play Policy. Discussion deferred due to deteriorating weather.

Common Game. Discussion deferred due to deteriorating weather.

7. **Next Board Meeting:** Monday, March 7, 2016, 2:30 p.m., at BCB.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Foster, Secretary