

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

March 7, 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

Guests: Judie Bailey, Andrei Reinhorn

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

1. The **minutes** of the meeting of February 12, 2016, previously distributed by email, were approved.
2. The **Treasurer's Report** covering the period 2/1/16 to 3/2/16, previously distributed by email, was accepted. The balance was \$14,798, down from \$15,636 at the beginning of the period.
3. **Correspondence.** None.
4. **Committee Reports:**

Unit Tournament Coordinator. Dian noted that 19 sanctions have been obtained for Unit games (both Unit-run and club-run) in 2016. Five more are available, two of which will be used for Unit games at the Airport Bridge Club in August and November. Dian proposed that a Unit game be added in October, specifically a barometer-pairs game at Meridian. It was moved and seconded that such a game be added to the schedule on October 10. Motion passed.

Fifth Column. Howard prepared an entry for the last issue of 5th Column. Entries are based on material contained in the Buff. Deadline for the April issue of 5th Column is March 15. Howard will prepare an entry if Buff is issued in time. Otherwise it will be submitted for the June issue.

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

Game Supplies. Everything OK.

Refreshment Supplies. Everything OK.

Publicity. Carol will sent information on the Spring Sectional to the Buffalo News.

Membership. Welcome packets have been delayed by computer problems but will go out soon.

Education. Carol is working on a teaching program to be introduced in a charter middle school in Buffalo. It may be based on a book for beginners, "Teach Me To Play," a copy of which Carol had available for the Board to look over. The target date for launch is October. Money is available from

ACBL to pay teachers. Money is available from District 5 for other expenses. It was moved and seconded that Carol be provided with \$100 to cover incidental expenses, which the Unit will recoup from the District. Motion carried.

5. **Old Business:**

Unit Fliers and Postings. Betty noted that we have to be careful about the information put out on Unit events, as once the information is out there cannot be changes. She requested that fliers be sent to her for review before posting.

Post Office Box. We need replacement keys. Sue Neubecker will have to obtain them as the box was rented by her.

Taste of Buffalo Pro-Am Game. Jim Gullo presented a preliminary financial report on the game, which attracted 16 tables and much delectable food. Prizes were awarded for the best appetizer, main dish, and dessert. The game generated a surplus of \$226.

Spring Sectional. Betty will arrange final details with Brian. Paul will arrange for subs on Sunday.

Unit Calendar (and Chairs). The calendar for the rest of 2016 was reviewed. It stands thus:

Spring Sectional, April 8-10 at Main-Transit Fire Hall (Paul et al.)

Unit Championship Week, May 15-21, at clubs

Strawberry Social, June 11 at Lockport (Dian with Bob Lederhouse)

NLM Sectional, July 8-9 at BCB (Kathy Pollock)

Unit Picnic, July 24 at Erie County Fairgrounds (Paul with Elaine)

Eight Is Enough Team Game, August 14 at Airport (Howard with Tova)

Fall Sectional, September 16-18 at Main-Transit (Betty and Jim)

Barometer Pairs, October 10 at Meridian (Dian with Jim)

Buffalo Regional, October 18-23 at Adam's Mark

Game at Airport on November 6, format TBD (Elaine with Howard)

Annual Meeting, December 3 at Main-Transit (Chip and Carol, with Paul for food)

6. **New Business:**

Free-Play Policy. There was discussion on whether the Board needs to review its policies on awarding and using free plays. For sectionals, the current policy is for 12 free plays awarded to the co-chairs, with additional ones distributed to helpers "at discretion of chair with approval of President. Betty noted that 27 free plays were distributed for the Fall Sectional. The Board agreed that the policy warrants review but no determination was made.

Common Game. In response to requests that more detailed results of Unit games be posted on line, Betty asked Andrei Reinhorn to review with the Board options for using the Common-Game platform to post results of Unit games. This can be done directly by the Unit, but it would require the purchase of a computer and software. An alternative is to use the BCB's capability: the game director would send files to BCB, which a designated person there would load onto the Common-

Game platform, and the results would then be imported into the Unit's web site. It was moved and seconded that Betty explore with BCB whether it would be willing to do this and on what terms. Motion carried.

Advertising On Line. An on-line player web site will allow us to advertise sectionals in three states plus a province for one month for \$100. It was moved that we try this out for our Spring Sectional and see whether it attracts more out-of-town players. Concern was expressed over how we would gauge the impact of the advertising and whether we are too close to the tournament anyway. Proponents argues that it is not a major expense and we should give it a try. Motion passed, 5-4.

Unit Directory. Judie Bailey advised the Board that she has started working on a new Unit Directory. The last one came out in 2013. Judie said she needed a Board member to arrange for printing and distribution. Howard agreed to help with that. There was also discussion of whether all Unit members should be included (at least with name), with an opt-out, or whether persons should be included at all only if they opt in. There was concern that an opt-out policy might violate ACBL privacy rules. Betty will check with ACBL. In the meantime, the Board approved Judie's proceeding with the new Directory.

7. **Next Board Meeting:** May 6, 2016, 2:00 p.m., at BCB.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Foster, Secretary