

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

May 6, 2016

Bridge Center of Buffalo, Amherst, NY

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

Member Absent: Jim Gullo

Guest: Judie Bailey

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Metz at 2:05 p.m.

1. The **minutes** of the meeting of March 7, 2016, previously distributed by email, were approved.
2. The **Treasurer's Report** covering the period 3/3/16 to 5/2/16, previously distributed by email, was accepted. The balance was \$18,008, up from \$14,798 at the beginning of the period. The higher balance reflects receipts from the Spring Sectional. The report was accepted by the Board.

Tova also noted that this year's filing fee to NYS Tax has been paid, and the premium for the Unit's insurance will be paid in later in May.

3. **Calendar.** Betty noted that the updated schedule of Unit events for 2016 was distributed by email.
4. **Committee Reports:**

Buff. Judie reported that the next Buff will be out on or about June 21. Betty reported that she has been provided with entries to tournament events within the Mid-Atlantic Conference and proposed announcing in the Buff that they are available to players going to any of these tournaments on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fifth Column. The Unit's entry was included in the April issue of this bi-monthly electronic newsletter of Region 5. There will be no entry in the June issue as the material is drawn from the Buff, which is published quarterly. The next entry will be in the August issue of Fifth Column.

Unit Tournament Coordinator. Sanction numbers have been obtained for all events this year except the November 6 game at Airport Bridge Club, the format of which has not yet been determined.

Tova urged that detailed results of Unit games be available on the Unit's web site. Dian noted that the results are accessible through a link to the ACBL's site. Tova and others would like to see a more convenient and intuitive way to access these results, similar to what is available for BCB games.

Dian reminded the Board that the increased fees now being charged by ACBL went into effect on May 1.

Sunshine. Tova reported that five 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.

Publicity. Carol will send information on the upcoming Strawberry Social to the Buffalo News.

Membership. Two new members since the last meeting. Welcome packets will be sent.

Education. Carol reported on her activities to promote bridge in the schools. In April she and Elaine talked with staff at the Tapestry Charter School. They were receptive to hosting after-school bridge classes. The classes will be put together by teachers and counselors at the school. Ten weekly lessons will start on Thursday, September 29, with Carol and Elaine teaching them. There will also be a cadre of “bridge buddies,” coordinated by Sharon Wilcox, who will work with the students at their tables.

Carol has also pursued a program for area middle-school students over the summer. She and Betty met with the BCB Board to ascertain whether they could provide space for classes. They agreed to do so at no charge, and Christy Kellogg has agreed to teach the classes, which will meet weekly from July 7 to August 21. Carol has contacted administrators and counselors at the Chinese School and at Transit Middle School to help with recruiting.

Betty noted that Carol has already incurred some expenses on these programs, and further expenses are expected. Many of the expenses will be reimbursed by ACBL and/or District 5, but the Unit needs to advance the money. The Board had earlier approved \$100 for this purpose, but Betty suggested that more will be needed and proposed that \$500 be made available. Motion to that effect was made and approved unanimously. Carol will manage the accounting of the funds.

The Board extended kudos to Carol for her great work on these initiatives.

5. **Old Business:**

Spring Sectional. There were 156 tables over the three days (11 more than last year), and a net profit of \$2,231 (about the same as last year). There were about 300 “clicks” on the electronic ad we placed (at a cost of \$100), and there was some anecdotal evidence of attendees from out of town having been attracted by the ads. It was suggested that in future such ads should be moved ahead in time (people will not be attracted at the last minute), and that we should try to track how many people actually attend because of the ad.

As usual, many people contributed to the warm hospitality of the tournament. Paul and Dion coordinated the event, with Paul overseeing refreshments. There were numerous providers of home-baked goodies. Elaine and Jim looked after the sandwiches on Sunday. Many players volunteered in the kitchen for prep and cleanup. Special thanks to Linda Zittel and Jan Hasselbeck.

Directory. Kudos to Judie for taking on the large task of updating the Unit Directory. She has asked members to indicate whether they wish to be included and to confirm their contact information. Many have responded, but quite a few have not. Some Board members will call non-respondents.

Common Game. BCB has agreed to allow the Unit to use their Common-Game files for Unit games. The directors would have to send their results to Andre Reinhorn or Bob Padgug for posting. Betty will survey directors to determine their willingness to send results to BCB for this purpose.

6. **New Business:**

Upcoming Events. Bob Lederhouse is handling hospitality for the Strawberry Social on June 11. The flier is done. We still need a flier for the NLM Sectional in July.

There was discussion of the price we should charge for the annual picnic on July 24 in light of the Unit's healthy treasury. Ultimately it was moved that Unit 116 members pay \$10 (for two sessions plus food) and non-members pay \$16. Motion approved.

Dates for 2018 sectionals were discussed. Betty will check with Main-Transit Fire Hall for January 19-21 or 26-28 (Winter); April 13-15 or 20-22 (Spring) and September 21-23 or 28-30 (Fall). She will also check availability and price at Main-Transit and Rescue Fire Hall (North Tonawanda) for the 2018 Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting for 2017 will be held at Main-Transit.

Free-Play Policy. There was further discussion of the Unit's free-play policies. 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." For Unit games, one free play for each co-chair and significant helpers is typical. Betty will write up a draft policy for guidance on the number of free plays to be distributed and rules for use, including a time limit, non-transferability, and use for any Unit event.

Mentoring Plan. Dian proposed an initiative to support mentoring of beginner/intermediate players by experienced players. He proposed that the Unit cover the entry fees of top players (at least 2,000 MPs) who agree to play with a developing player (10-300 MPs) in a minimum of five open games. The Unit would reimburse the mentor's entry fee at a club game. Mentors would be solicited in the Buff, through fliers (which Dian will prepare), and by announcements of the program by directors. The five games would have to be completed by the end of 2016. There was some discussion of whether there should be a cap on Unit expenditures, and it was decided not to have one. The proposal was moved and approved by the Board.

7. **Next Board Meeting:** June 17, 2016, 2:00 p.m., at BCB.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Foster, Secretary