

Unit 116 Western New York of the ACBL

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors (approved)

November 4, 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

**Member absent:** Paul Zittel

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Metz at 2:20 p.m.

1. The **minutes** of the meeting of September 23, 2016, previously distributed by email, were approved as revised.
2. The **Treasurer's Report** covering the period 9/22/16 to 10/29/16, previously distributed by email, was accepted. The balance was \$18,872, up from \$17,674 at the beginning of the period. Betty noted that the cost of the Main-Transit Fire Hall, where our sectionals are scheduled to take place, will be going up by \$300 per event next year and an additional \$200 after that.
3. **Correspondence.** We have been informed by ACBL that a sectional tournament has been proposed in Toronto at the same time as our Fall 2018 sectional. Although it is possible that the Toronto event will draw a few players who otherwise might have attended ours, the Board determined that we should pose no objection. Dian will so notify ACBL.

**4. Committee Reports:**

**Fifth Column.** Entry for the December issue will be submitted by the November 15 deadline. Howard raised the question of who will prepare these entries next year, suggesting that it would best be a member of the Board.

**Unit Tournament Coordinator.** The situation with the 2016 Summer Picnic has still not been resolved. Players have not been credited with their masterpoints. Tova reported that the check to ACBL has been sent but has not yet cleared. Dian will resubmit financial reports and game results for both the picnic and the Annual Meeting at the same time.

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

**Supplies.** Dave Hemmer has indicated a willingness to prepare boards for future Unit Dupli-Swiss events. He and Betty agreed that additional flip-top boards would make the dealing and loading much easier. A motion to purchase 6 more sets of flip-top boards, at \$159 per set plus tax and shipping, was approved. Chip will order the boards.

**Membership.** There are six new members (one couple) since the last meeting.

**Education.** Carol reported on the status of the various teaching programs that the Unit is sponsoring. (1) The new beginner class planned for Saturday mornings in the Fall was cancelled due to lack of interest. (2) The follow-up to the summer beginner class for youths, taught by Jim Gullo and Fred Yellen, and assisted by various “bridge buddies,” is going well. Weekly attendance has been 8-10 students. (3) The after-school class at Transit Middle School, taught by Donna Steffan on Thursday afternoons, recently picked up some last-minute students and has been successfully launched with a class of eight young persons.

**Elections.** The Nominating Committee put forth the names of Sue Neubecker, Gay Simpson, and Denise Slattery to fill the three Board openings next year. No petitions for additional candidates were received. Betty advised that the Nominating Chair (Jim) will therefore declare at the Annual Meeting that the nominees are elected by acclamation.

**Volunteer of the Year.** Betty nominated Pat Lakeman for her prodigious efforts in recruiting and organizing bakers for Unit events over the years. The nomination was approved by the Board.

## 5. Old Business:

**Fall Sectional.** The Board received financial and hospitality reports from Jim. The event attracted 181.5 tables and netted \$3,061 for the Unit’s treasury. Jim noted that he had received requests from diabetics for sugar-free snacks to go along with the gluten-free food we are already providing.

**Mentor Program.** Dian reported that 10 pairs have completed their five games. He has prepared an evaluation survey that he will be sending to both mentors and mentees. The Board approved a motion to continue the program in 2017 under Dian’s direction. Some open administrative details will be addressed at a future meeting.

**Buffalo Regional.** Betty reported that it was a successful tournament with higher attendance over last year. The use of the Unit’s supplies worked smoothly.

**November 6 Unit Game.** Howard and Elaine are co-chairing. Theme is celebrating the end of the election. Indications are that there will be 7-8 tables.

**Annual Meeting.** Carol is chairing. Brian Meyer will be directing. Betty distributed tickets to Board members to sell.

## 6. New Business:

**Board Dinner.** To be held at Amici Ristorante in Tonawanda on November 16.

**Handbooks.** Betty will be revising for next year. She asked that Board members review the portions of the Handbook applicable to their roles and advise her of any changes that should be made.

**Winter Sectional.** Betty will chair. She is looking into providing lunches between sessions through a food truck or the Women’s Auxiliary of the Fire Hall.

**Unit Game.** Elaine urged the Board to consider holding a game at the Carousel Museum in North Tonawanda next summer. The last game there two years ago was well received. The room where the game would be held is now air-conditioned

**7. Next Board Meeting:** December 16, 2016, 2:15 p.m., at BCB, to include both outgoing and incoming Board members.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Foster, Secretary