

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

September 23, 2016

Bridge Center of Buffalo, Amherst, NY

Members present: Carol Bedell, Howard Foster, Jim Gullo, Betty Metz, Dian Petrov, Tova Reinhorn, Paul Zittel

Members absent: Chip Kean, Elaine Kurasiewicz

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Metz at 2:15 p.m.

1. The **minutes** of the meeting of August 26, 2016, previously distributed by email, were approved.
2. The **Treasurer's Report** covering the period 8/24/16 to 9/21/16, previously distributed by email, was accepted with one small amendment. The balance was \$17,693, up from \$14,648 at the beginning of the period. Most of the increase represented profit from the Fall Sectional.

3. **Committee Reports:**

Buff. The deadline for material to be included in the next Buff is October 24.

Fifth Column. Entry for the October issue has been submitted.

Unit Tournament Coordinator. Dian reported that all sanctions have been assigned for this year. Sanctions have also been obtained for the Unit Picnic on August 20, 2017, and the Annual Meeting on December 2, 2017. Tova reported that our check for the 2016 Picnic was returned by ACBL because of irregularities in the paperwork. These have been corrected and the payment resent. When the payment has been processed by ACBL the masterpoints will be awarded.

The Board discussed the system for paying ACBL fees. For sectionals, the Treasurer routinely pays directly. For Unit games held at clubs, the club routinely pays the fee and is reimbursed by the Unit. There needs to be a consistent procedure for Unit games run elsewhere (such as the picnic and the Annual Meeting). Betty suggested that this responsibility be assigned to the Unit Tournament Coordinator, who would be reimbursed by the Unit. This was agreeable to Dian, the current Coordinator, who would be willing to do it even after he cycles off the Board. The Unit Tournament Coordinator would also be responsible for sending results to the Common Game. A motion to implement the foregoing was made and carried unanimously.

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

Publicity. Carol emailed Dale Anderson with information about the bridge classes being sponsored by the Unit.

The Board discussed whether we should continue the ads we have been placing on BBO. There was anecdotal evidence that some people had been attracted to the recent sectional by the ads, but there was no systematic effort to determine how much of a difference the ads made. A motion was made to continue the ads, which passed 4-3.

Betty noted that as we discuss methods to attract players to tournaments we also need to think about how many additional players we can accommodate at sectionals, as we are nearing capacity with respect to tables and boards.

Education. (1) Carol reported that despite extensive outreach efforts there has been little interest in the new beginner class planned for Saturday mornings in the Fall. (2) Still on is an 8-session follow-up to the summer beginner class for youths, scheduled to start on October 2 and taught by Jim Gullo and Fred Yellen. (3) Also on are after-school classes at Transit Middle School, to be given by Donna Steffan, although whether the class will ultimately go will not be known until the first day (October 6). Carol and Donna have offered to meet with staff and parents if the advisor with whom they have been coordinating wishes it. (4) Classes at the Tapestry School have been postponed.

Elections. The Nominating Committee has put forth the names of Sue Neubecker, Gay Simpson, and Denise Slattery to fill the three Board openings next year. They have been advised to have their bios in by the end of September for distribution with ballots. No petitions on behalf of additional candidates have been received yet; the deadline for them is October 4.

4. **Old Business:**

Fall Sectional. The tournament was very successful. There were 181.5 tables, a recent record, exceeding the previous record by 9 tables. Betty thanked all who contributed, including a number of bakers. The financial report showing a profit of \$3,061 was distributed earlier. The administrative report is forthcoming.

Paul and Jim noted that the dupli-Swiss on Sunday worked very well and was favorably received by players. Betty noted that we need a sustainable plan for preparing the boards for this event. This time Dave Hemmer and Brian Meyer did it themselves *pro bono*, but because we do not have enough boards some of the preparation had to be done Saturday night. It was noted that with the duplication we do not need caddies, so the money saved can be used in other ways for board preparation (including buying additional boards). No decision was made.

Kudos to Betty and Jim for orchestrating this tournament, and to Paul to providing farm-fresh red peppers for prizes and as favors to out-of-towners on Sunday.

Mentor Program. Dian reported that some pairs have completed their five games and are interested in more. There have been inquiries about the next cycle. Carol suggested that we should get input from participants about their experience with the program. Tova suggested a brief questionnaire. Board members were invited to submit questions to be used for evaluation. Dian generously agreed to continue coordinating the program when he cycles off the Board.

Buffalo Regional. Betty reported that contrary to a previous decision she would be purchasing supplies for the upcoming regional. Any excess will be sold or donated to the Unit.

5. **New Business:**

November 6 Unit Game. The flier has been prepared and distributed. Howard will send it to Dian and Judie for posting electronically. The game, titled “The Red and the Blue,” will “celebrate” the end of the political campaign.

Annual Meeting. Brian Meyer will be directing. Sue Neubecker will be helping Carol with the planning. Paul is arranging the usual barbecued-chicken lunch.

6. **Next Board Meeting:** November 4, 2016, 2:00 p.m., at BCB.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Foster, Secretary