

MINUTES

**Board Members
present:**

Steve Goldstein, President
Gary Delestine, Vice President
Bill Dani, Treasurer
Sally Tobin, Secretary

Barbara Hopewell
David Kane
Bill Berke
William Stine

Board Member Excused: Nance Lodge

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Steve Goldstein at 9:35 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the board meeting held on January 16, 2014, were read. A motion was made by Bill Dani to accept the minutes, it was seconded by Bill Berke and unanimously approved.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Dani presented a schedule showing transactions for the month and explaining that the final deposit for the Palm Springs Convention Center has been made. He presented the new budget for 2014, showing January actuals, which included a check to Nance Lodge for expenses she had incurred last year for the Bridge in Schools program. Overall there was a loss of \$177 for Unit Game income due in part because of the Giving Back to Members program which the Unit has instituted. There was a discussion about the forthcoming March and November Unit Games, when we usually go dark because of the scheduled Sectionals. Bill Berke made a motion that we not have a Unit Game in March and November when we hold a Sectional, Barbara seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

With regard to the difference in income in the Unit Games from 2012 and 2013, Bill presented a separate schedule showing the expenses and income for each unit game. He pointed out that the 2-Session (one-day) event held in November 2012 netted \$2,800, and the difference in table count for the summer games amounted to \$1,056. This coupled with free plays given away during the summer series and the Holiday Party discounts, added up to the noted difference of \$4,895.00. Sally made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, it was seconded by Barbara and was approved by all.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a): **Annual Meeting/Election**: A motion was made by Bill Berke to accept and ratify the Election Committee's results. The subject of quorum qualification was discussed. With the absentee ballots included, we had enough to fulfill the 10% requirement. Without the absentee ballots, the numbers were very close to 10%. The motion was seconded by Sally Tobin and was unanimously approved.

The vote on the amendment to the by-laws regarding quorum requirements passed by more than a two-thirds vote. Steve requested that Bill make this announcement on the Web site as soon as possible.

Steve, then introduced the board's newest elected director, William Stine and welcomed him to the board.

Following that, David made a motion nominating all present officers of the board to continue in their same positions for the next year. Bill Berke seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Sally distributed a letter she had received from Dale Thune requesting information about the numbers of the votes in the election. Steve said he will respond after he has reviewed the count next week.

b) **March Sectional:** Gary brought up the fact that we still need a Partnership Chairman. Barbara offered to help out. She will speak to Ilene Grabel again for suggestions of others who might be willing. Gary noted that the Convention Center has promised that there will be no hinderance to the handicapped as far as the main entrance is concerned. Drop off will be free and clear. Convention flyers have been delivered to various clubs and Gary requested that it be posted on the Web sit as soon as possible. Gary has been in touch with the Comfort Inn which is offering special rates for the Sectional weekend. He noted on the flyer that reservations for the tournament should not be confused with "hotel reservations" and perhaps that should be clarified before it goes up on the Web. Sally mentioned the list of restaurants in the area, and Gary will try to get discounts for bridge players at some of these restaurants. He also reminded everyone that parking for the bridge tournament is free. All rental equipment has been ordered and can be dropped off after 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday evening prior to the tournament. Terry Cox is once again in charge of the caddies who will help set up.

Bill Dani mentioned that we should start the process for the November sectional at Duncan, and will get in touch with Bev. to start making arrangements. A question came up about using the Convention Center for the November Sectional, but Bill Dani responded that it doesn't make sense financially at that time of year.

c) **April AWARDS/Unit Game** The Awards Game has been set for April 6th. Steve will contact Marie who has now taken over the Sunday Cathedral City game from Mick, to ask if she will go dark for the Awards Ceremony. He will explain to her how difficult it is to manage giving out the awards at two different locations. Bill Dani has ordered the awards for the Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs recipients.

d) **February Unit Game:** Bill will email Marie regarding his past agreement with Mick for the Unit games to find out if she wants to go along with the same arrangements. Bill and Gary will represent the board at Marie's Unit game next week, including help setting up, taking money etc. In the meantime, Bill Berke will do an email blast about upcoming Unit Games. Marie needs to let us know how she wants to handle reservations.

e) **Web Site Status:** Bill Berke reported that our Web site has now officially been taken over by the board and that he can now proceed with the transfer from the old host program to *Go-Daddy.Com*. Bill explained that this could take another few weeks to sort out, but everything is now going as planned. The switchover will be made when the time is right. In the meantime, we will retain Scott McHarg, on an "on-call" basis to help in a crisis, but he believes that for the

most part, he and Steve will be able to take care of managing the site. Bill said that for \$73 we will have the domain name for the next ten years. Steve asked for target date when we could expect to have the new program up and running; this was set as April 1, 2014.

f) **Storage Space**. Steve signed the Agreement to Rent Storage Space that David Kane had drawn up between the Unit Board and Duncan. David will take it to Duncan and get Bev to sign too. We need to get another key from Duncan. There was a discussion about arranging a date to transfer the items we currently have in storage to the new location. Steve offered the use of his truck.

g) **New Members**: Barbara said she has sent out the first batch (between 40-50) of "welcome" packages, containing an informational-letter and a convention-card holder. It was too early for any feedback, but she will continue with the project for the next few months to see how well it is accepted.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) **The Longest Day**: After discussion, the board agreed that there appeared to be little interest here in the Valley to participating in the ACBL fund raiser for Alzheimer's Disease in June. Sally made a motion that we send a \$100 check for this cause to the ACBL in lieu of participation. Barbara seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

6. DATE & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at Barbara Hopewell's house on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:35 a.m. a motion was made by Sally that the meeting be adjourned; it was seconded by Barbara and approved by all.

Respectfully submitted

Sally A. Tobin
Secretary, Unit 533