

## MINUTES

**Board Members  
present:**

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

Barbara Hopewell  
David Kane  
Nance Lodge  
Bill Berke

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Goldstein at 9:30 a.m.

**2. MINUTES:**

The minutes of the board meeting held on December 19, 2013, were read. A motion was made by Nance to accept the minutes with the changes as presented, the motion was seconded by Bill, and unanimously approved.

**3. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bill Dani gave the Treasurer's Report, and handed out the year-end financials. Our checking account balance is \$25,542.81. The profit and loss statement shows a surplus of \$2,399.06. Bill handed out copies of the final budget for 2013 along with the actuals. He pointed out in a comparison report of income from the previous year's Unit Games to 2013 - a difference of close to \$5,000.00. There was a discussion about this, and questions came up about the discrepancy. Bill said there were reasons for this, and that he will get the details and report back to the Board at the next meeting. The second deposit for the Convention Center has been paid, one more is due. Insurance for the Sectional has been taken care of. Nance moved to accept the Treasurer's report with the understanding that the questions about Unit Game income need to be cleared up. Sally seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a) **March Sectional**: Gary said that we still need a Partnership Chairman. In the meantime he has put his name down on the flyer as it needed to go to print. He will take a bunch of the flyers with him to Las Vegas. It has already been sent to the Forum for advertising in next month's issue. A couple of names were suggested for the Partnership Chairman and Barbara said she would follow up. Gary has ordered and received pencils with St. Patrick's Day theme, which we will use for give-aways at the Hospitality Table. Sally reminded Gary about the pencil sharpeners that we have used in the past.

Referring to the golf cart which he had arranged the use of, Gary brought up the issue of insurance. Bill Dani said that there were obstacles to arranging a rider to our insurance policy and after discussion, the board decided that we should forego the use of a golf cart for the handicapped. It turns out that this year (unlike last year), the Convention Center has assured us

that our handicapped players may be dropped off at the front door which should solve the problem.

Gary said that he has also made attempts to contact the District regarding renting tables from them, but so far without much response. There was a discussion about renting the tables from the same place that we have used in the past, the costs and quantities etc. Gary will follow up.

- b) **Annual Meeting:** Steve mentioned that Mick had agreed to delay the start of his game, so that players wanting to play at his game, could attend the Annual Meeting and vote. The time for lunch was set at 12:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. Steve then referred to a communication from Nancy Erickson mentioning that a notice had not been posted at the various playing venues regarding the Election. Steve will email all our game directors asking them to do so, if and when possible. He will also ask them to make an announcement about the Annual Meeting **and** to mention the importance of voting.

A discussion then ensued regarding the order of business. Steve called Guy Brackett (Election Chairman) on the phone so that he could join in the discussion about the logistics of the election. They talked about having two separate ballots (one for the vote on the by-laws amendment, one for the election of directors), using only one envelope, which could be picked up at the tables or deposited in the ballot boxes in the lobby. For those players arriving at the back door, David & Bill Berke offered to stand there and direct them to the front where they can have their Unit membership verified and pick up their ballots before they sit down.

Bill Dani will give the State of the Unit speech. After a brief welcoming speech, Steve will introduce the nominees, and then Guy Brackett, who will conduct the election, and give voting instructions. After this, Steve will speak about the Board's reason for wanting a by-law change, and the vote on the amendment will take place. The ballot envelopes can either be picked up by board members and deposited into the ballot boxes, or members can deposit their ballots directly into the ballot boxes on their way out.

Steve then said that he will post a notice on the Web Site expressing the board's appreciation to Mick for his thoughtfulness in delaying the start of his game while the election is taking place.

- c) **Web Site Status:** Bill Berke reported that according to Reliable (the web server) Don Freeland, as owner, has complete control of the web site and therefore Reliable cannot do anything without the express approval of Don, or until ownership has been clarified. Bill said that he relayed this to Don. Don said this was not so. David suggested that they have a three-way discussion to talk this out. Bill Dani said that in the meantime, it would send a check to Don for another month's work. Bill Berke said he would continue trying to resolve the matter and hopes it will be done soon. In the meantime, Bill said, he wants the board to know that, when the new site is up and running, it will look a somewhat different from the one currently in place.

- d) **Storage Space.** Steve said that Bev is willing to sign a lease and then asked David if he would draw up a simple sub-lease or even a Letter of Agreement that she could sign. To this end, Steve will ask Bev for a copy of Duncan's current lease. Bill Dani asked if this could be done by the end of this month, otherwise he would have to pay another month's rent on our

current storage place. David will look into to this and let Bill know if there is a problem with the timing.

e) **New Members:** Barbara and Nance now have a form letter ready to be sent out to all new members. There was a discussion about the cost to include a Convention Card holder and how much postage would be involved. The board agreed that we should try it out for a couple of months and see how it goes.

f) **Unit Game** Gary went over the schedule of unit games that he had sent out by email to all Board members and club directors. He is offering directors a chance to have seven additional unit games. So far he has received little response (perhaps because of the perceived costs?). Gary explained that there would be no additional costs, as the Unit would be reimbursing them for the extra sanction fees. However the Unit would not be sponsoring the games or provide lunch.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Country Club Challenge:** Steve reported on the Country Club Challenge held at Mission Hills. It appears to have been very successful; Nance said that they had 16 tables - a very good turn-out for a first-time event. Ilene commented that she thought the group was very complimentary towards our Unit and they seemed to hold the bridge community in the Valley in the highest esteem. Nance said she thought the committee organizing the event, would be requesting some reimbursement for their expenses.

## 6. DATE & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at Barbara Hopewell's house on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:15 a.m. a motion was made by Nance that the meeting be adjourned; it was seconded by Bill Berke and approved by all.

Respectfully submitted

Sally A. Tobin  
Secretary, Unit 533