

MINUTES

**Board Members
present:**

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

Barbara Hopewell
David Kane
Bill Berke
William Stine

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 January 16, 2014, were read. A motion was made by Bill Berke to accept the minutes, it was seconded by Barbara Hopewell and unanimously approved.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Dani presented a schedule showing transactions for the month, explaining he had received a \$100 rebate for the Sectional advertisement that never made it into the Forum. Bill talked about the budget and questioned whether the extra Unit games would bring in any more money temporarily. Steve said it was money well spent. Bill's estimate for the upcoming sectional is that it will be a break-even event. He lowered the total table count to 450 and mentioned that last year we didn't pay any extra ACBL directors' fees. Also, this year, we are subsidizing the 0-50 section, by offering a special rate. We are also subsidizing lunch. The Caddy costs have not been finalized. Bill mentioned that the Palm Springs Convention Center have asked as to change our location within the venue to accommodate another group. They are offering \$2500 reduction in the rent if we comply. The access to the bathrooms is more convenient but the allotted space it is further away from the parking lot.

Barbara Hopewell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Bill Berke seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a): **Annual Meeting/Election:** Steve then introduced Dick Prochnow who had been invited to attend this board meeting. Dick said that there had been several members who had been in touch with him to voice their dissatisfaction with how the results of the recent election had been handled. The board went into Executive Session to discuss the issue.

The session ended with the promise that Steve would post a letter on the Web Site explaining exactly what happened after the election, and why there was some confusion over the results. Dick Prochnow made the statement that he saw nothing unethical about how the board handled the situation and this he would pass this along to the Ethics Committee.

b) **March Sectional:** Gary stated that he had called at many of the restaurants in the vicinity of the Convention Center and had received a promise of a 10% discount for bridge players at five of them. Set-up for the tournament will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday evening. Sally and Gary promised to stop by to handle any problems. Bill Dani mentioned that the Comfort Inn Hotel had not received enough reservations from the bridge community to warrant their discount. This year we did not pre-reserve rooms for the directors, since they were not used in the past. Steve asked that Gary give a welcoming speech at the beginning of the tournament, and a wrap-up at the end, thanking all the caddies, directors etc. for their help.

c) **April AWARDS Game** The Awards Game has been set for April 6th. It will be held at Duncan. Steve has made arrangements with Marie to direct a section at the Awards Game instead of her usual game. The certificates and medallions to be handed out are in hand. Sally and Steve will manage the food.

e) **Web Site Status:** Bill Berke stated that the date for the change-over for our website has been set for March 22nd when it may not be possible for the directors to post scores on the results page. It can take as much as 24-48 hours to activate the new site over the broad-band spectrum. Bill will inform all our directors of this possibility, so that they are prepared. Bill then questioned whether we need to continue the practice of publishing our address list on the website. He had done some research on other bridge-club websites and discovered that there were hardly any who did. Bill recommended that we discontinue the practice. After discussion, Sally made a motion that we drop the membership list on our published website, Barbara seconded that the motion was unanimously approved.

David Kane questioned the link for name badges and wondered whether we could give them out again, as we had in the past. Bill Dani said that the follow up had been difficult as our membership is so spread out in the valley. Members can get them on their own if they so choose.

Bill will be beta-testing the site with some of the directors and board members a few days ahead of the change-over. Bill Berke informed Bill Dani that there are approximately \$500.00 in fees to be paid. We also need to pay Don Freeland for his last month's service.

f) **Storage Space.** We are now in our new storage space at Duncan. The bookcases that are there have been requested back by Duncan and this is being taking care of. We still need to get another key. Gary said we need to get in there before the Sectional. There was a question about getting a rebate from our old storage space.

g) **New Members:** Barbara has sent out the second batch of welcoming packages to new members. She is still waiting for feed-back.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

a) Additional Unit Game schedule: Gary stated that he has received positive feedback on arranging for the availability of additional Unit Games.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Education:** Nance handed out the proposal she had drawn up encouraging the education of new students. The proposal offered the suggestion that refunds be given to teachers for students completing their course. There were some suggestions about refining the details of the proposal which Nance will incorporate before email to Unit 533 directors and teachers.
- b) Gary requested the board's permission to direct Woody's game while he is away at the end of April. The board voted 5 to 4 in favor of allowing Gary to do so as long as it was without compensation.
- c) Nancy asked if it was permissible to act as advisor to the Mission Hills Bridge Club. The board voted unanimously to allow this.

6. DATE & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at David Kane's house on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. David will email directions to board members.

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:50 a.m. a motion was made by Sally that the meeting be adjourned; it was seconded by Nance and approved by all.

Respectfully submitted

Sally A. Tobin
Secretary, Unit 533