

**Unit 207**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**07/08/2021**

Meeting called to order: 3:04 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pat Berry	X
Barbara Clements	X
Mickey Goldwater	X
Linda Griffith	X
Cheri Gross	X
Sharon Hoger	X
Nancy Joe	X
James Moody	X
Rita Wiegenstein	X

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES** (Only present for 1<sup>st</sup> order of business)

Paul Cuneo

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

1. ACBL Update (Paul Cuneo)

- The following information was presented by Paul Cuneo:
  - ✓ Elections: This will be the first year for regional elections that will include combining Districts 15 and 16. There will be three (3) year terms, with votes weighted by membership. Voting will start August 15, 2021 and end September 15, 2021. The National Board is being reduced from 25 to 13 board members with the goal of increasing board members' skills.
  - ✓ Tournament Policy: In-person bridge resuming with the following ~
    1. If a participant lives in a state with vaccination administration verification requirements, masks can be mandated and participants can be asked about vaccinations.
    2. If a participant lives in a state without required vaccination administration verification, an exception can be granted.
    3. An updated policy is expected after an ACBL leadership meeting on July 9, 2021.
    4. ACBL working on an app for pre-registration to decrease contact at tournaments.
  - ✓ Membership/Income: Overall membership has decreased 10% in 2021. Income has increased because all income from online tournaments goes to ACBL. Sanction fees paid to ACBL are the same for any game (virtual clubs, in-person clubs, or BBO) are \$1.00/table for tournaments and \$2.25/table for other events (i.e. City Championships).
  - ✓ Club Support: Each club is being allocated an additional club championship game. Two of these were upgraded with greater than 8 points, others to 6 points. These will occur over a 10 week period. Additionally, the online multiplier for points is being reduced to make in-person play more rewarding for players.

2. Approval of Unit Meeting Minutes

Verified during Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting – June Minutes approved electronically and filed on Unit's website.

Clarification noted that the original Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements containing the BOD's signatures will not be posted on the Unit's website (.pdf copies to be maintained with Unit records).

3. Treasurer's Report (Barbara Clements)

- Financial report compiled with information including a balance sheet and profit/loss statement provided to the BOD via email. Motion was made and seconded to accept the financial information – unanimously approved.
- Reimbursement for free play games sponsored by Unit 207 has been paid to Sun City, Bridge Center of Austin (BCA), and Larry Davis with other club payments pending receipt of amount due.
- Audit report completed by Virgil Massey. Copy of report to be provided to BOD

4. Club Report (Rita Wiegenstein)

- A comparison was made of play at local clubs in June 2019 and June 2021. This revealed an approximate attendance decrease of 50%-60%.
- Some local clubs have not resumed in-person play.

5. Membership Report (Linda Griffith)

- July: 6 new members and 7 transfers into Unit.
- In July, 22 renewal letters/emails sent to members regarding renewals and/or welcome to Unit 207.
- Current membership for Unit 207: 1,032 (decrease of 3.73%).

6. Lecture Series (Linda Griffith)

- Lectures scheduled through February 2022.
- July lecture will be July 24, 2021: **Responses to 2NT Opener** by Buck Buchanan (via Zoom with handout).
- August 7, 2021 lecture will be given by Larry Davis.

7. Round Rock Club (Sharon Hoger)

- A new bridge club has been formed in Round Rock, TX. This club has requested a waiver of the waiting period for having sanctioned games. Motion was made and seconded to approve waiving the waiting period – unanimously approved.

8. 2021 Tournaments – 2022 Tournaments / Related Activities

**NLM Sectional Tournament** (August 7-8, 2021) (Cheri Gross)

Publicity: Flyers will be distributed to local clubs. A request to announce the tournament will be sent to all local club managers. Rita Wiegenstein will post a Facebook announcement. Information posted on ACBL website. Email blast prior to tournament will be sent by Sharon Hoger.

- Larry Davis will serve as the Tournament Director. Entries will be \$8.00 per session (ACBL members) or \$12.00 per session (non-ACBL member).

- Barbara Clements will coordinate amount of change (money) needed for tournament with Larry Davis.
- Mickey Goldwater agreed to coordinate snacks for the tournament with Charlene Sands.
- ACBL COVID safety requirements are updated regularly on the ACBL's website and will be checked with the BCA prior to tournament.

#### **Open Sectional Tournament (September 2021) (Rita Wiegenstein)**

- Publicity to be distributed closer to tournament.
- ACBL will provide the Director (Melody Euler).
- Nancy Joe agreed to coordinate caddies.
- Pat Berry will serve as Partnership Desk coordinator.
- COVID safety requirements will be review by Rita Wiegenstein with BCA.

#### **Approved Tournaments 2022**

- Sharon confirmed no conflicts with BCA.
  - July Regional at Holiday Inn
  - 1/6-9/2022 Sectional at BCA
  - 4/28-5/1/2022 Sectional at BCA
  - 9/22-25/2022 Sectional at BCA

#### **Proposed NLM Tournaments 2022**

- 0-750 = 2/5-6/2022, 6/4-5/2022, 11/5-6/2022
- 0-200 = 4/2-3/2022, 8/13-14/2022, 12/3-4/2022
- Motion was made and seconded to approve – unanimously approved.

#### **Tournament Guidance Handbook**

- BOD members continue to work on updating various sections. Final draft will then be reviewed by BOD.
- Cheri Gross will send copy of handbook in word format to all with members to return updates/changes to Cheri to incorporate into one document.

#### **Jacoby Award Nomination**

- Sharon Hoger coordinated collection of information for nominee and will submit.

#### **Bulletin Board Update**

- Cheri Gross and Barbara Clements will meet to plan/create new life master bulletin board.

#### **NABC**

- Charitable organizations (Central Texas Food Bank and Texas Parent to Parent) notified of pending donation.
- Each organization has provided the requested information to ACBL.
- All applicable tournament chairpersons or persons involved with publicity were included in correspondence with the organizations' contacts.

#### 9. Unit Chairpersons (Sharon Hoger)

- Intermediate/Novice (I/N) Coordinator Chairperson  
Sharon Hoger will contact potential candidates regarding accepting this chairmanship.

*The I/N Chair focuses on integrating students and new players into the local bridge family; is responsible for novice and beginner activities and coordinates with the Education Coordinator for classes; promotes new members for the Unit and ACBL; and coordinates and consults with the National Novice Chair and District Novice Chair concerning new or current novice programs in ACBL.*

10. Increasing In-Person Participation

Discussion about what/how Unit 207 could facilitate an increase in in-person participation at each of the Unit's member clubs. Multiple ideas were noted and discussed. All agreed that an immediate email blast to the Unit's membership would be provided explaining upcoming sponsored games. Implementation of other ideas pending further discussion and analysis of in-person participation during the summer.

11. Conflicts of Interest

Discussion on how to interpret the Conflict of Interest Policy and Disclosure Statements required for IRS compliance. As a result, a motion was made and seconded to ask Joyce Hellums, Managing Director – Tax, Ernst & Young, LLP, to address the BOD on the Unit's Conflict of Interest Policy, its adherence, explanation of IRS requirements for 501(c)4 non-profits, and actual vs. perceived or potential conflicts of interest – approved 7; 2 against with motion approved 7 to 2.

12. BCA Agreement

Agreement discussion pending.

13. New Business

None

Meeting adjourned: 5:10 PM

Action Items	Responsible	Status	Comments
Provide additional budget planning information to BOD.	Budget Committee	Pending	
Fill Unit Committee Chairperson positions.	All BOD Members	Pending	
Contact potential candidates for I/N Coordinator Chairperson position.	Sharon Hoger	Pending	
Confirm 2022 tournament dates with BCA.	Sharon Hoger	Completed	Determined BCA has no conflicts with potential dates.
NLM Sectional Tournament (August 7-8, 2021) duties to be completed (updated from prior BOD Meeting): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute flyers to local clubs.</li> <li>Confirm amount of money needed by Director (Larry Davis) for change (Barbara Clements)</li> <li>Coordinate snacks with BCA (Mickey Goldwater)</li> <li>Confirm email blast as tournament reminder (Sharon Hoger)</li> </ul>	Cheri Gross	Pending	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm ACBL COVID safety requirements prior to tournament</li> </ul>			
Create/finalize reference handbook for tournament chairpersons.	Sharon Hoger /Barbara Clements	Pending	
Complete submission article for Jacoby Award nominee.	Sharon Hoger	Completed	
Prepare envelopes for pins/certificates for award winners to distribute at the BCA.	Cheri Gross	Completed	
Update the Unit's bulletin boards at the BCA.	Barbara Clements /Cheri Gross	Pending	
Finalize BCA agreement.	All BOD Members	Pending	
Provide copy of Audit Report to BOD.	Barbara Clements	Completed	Emailed to BOD
Provide copy of Tournament Guidance Document in word format to BOD.	Cheri Gross	Completed	Emailed to BOD.