

**ACBL - UNIT 161
MINUTES of MEETING
Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008
DeGray Sectional
8:00 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE: Sharon Cissell Teri LaBove
Jane Dickey Margaret Kelly
Jan Farnsworth Dorothy Scharnhorst
Barbara Hess David Siebert
Ned Irving

ABSENT: Lou Agnew, Doris Ham, Tony Tsui

GUESTS: Marilyn Biegler, Bob Case, Cindy Devish, Dick Heil, Russ Jones,
Barbara Rankin

I. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President David Siebert. The Secretary reported attendance, duly noting Board member absences, and guests were welcomed.

III. MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETING, May 11, 2008

Minutes of the previous meeting, May 11th at the Regional Tournament, had been previously distributed to the Board members. They were approved by unanimous vote.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was presented for the period April 16th through October 15th. The October 15th balance on hand was reported to be \$ 7,810.00, with a CD balance of \$27,316.61. The report was accepted and will be retained for audit.

The Treasurer distributed copies of forms and reports received from ACBL, for informational purposes, only.

V. OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. 1) President David Siebert formerly accepted the Nominating Committee report submitted by Chair Dick Heil. The report will be presented to the members of Unit 161 between Saturday sessions of the tournament for confirmation of the following Board positions:

President:	Ned Irving
Vice President:	Doris Ham, Incumbent
Secretary/Treasurer:	Jan Farnsworth, Incumbent
Position #1	Margaret Kelly, Incumbent
Position #3	Teri LaBove, Incumbent
Position #5	Barbara Rankin
Position #7	Bob Case

2) An ACBL review of Unit Responsibilities was previously distributed to Board members and President David stated that our Unit is in Compliance in all areas addressed by the ACBL News update.

3) The President called on **Russ Jones, Tournament Coordinator**, to present District changes in Unit Games, which will be effective Jan. 1, 2009:

a) Unit Championships will be the new class of Unit Games, including Unit-Wide Championships and Unit Extended Team Games. The number of games will be increased from 16 to 24 per calendar year, with applicable sanction fees. ACBL fees are \$1.25/table. Of the 24 allocated games, a maximum of three (3) may be scheduled as Ext. Team Games.

b) Unit-Wide Championship games require the use of computer-dealt hands. **Russ** assured the Board members that Bill Cook is seeking to have the law changed which requires hand records. Until a decision has been handed down, Bill has received temporary permission for us to ignore the requirement for hand records.

c) **Russ** offered more detailed information about the options available for handling the Unit Championship schedule and led a discussion about how best to maximize the unit-wide games, i.e.: do not hold evening games if there are too few participants. Jane Dickey offered a motion, seconded by Teri LaBove, that if ACBL does approve changes to eliminate hand records for Unit-wide games, then continue allocation of Unit Games as in 2008. If hand records will be required, then assign Unit-wide games so as to maximize participation (e.g., few or no night games). Motion unanimously accepted.

d) All Unit or District Charity Games are replaced with one class of Fund or Foundation games. The maximum of four (4)/year per Unit and four (4)/year per District will be held under the same structure as clubs (\$1.25/game; \$.74/table; \$1.00/person. Foundation/fund games consist of Charity Foundation, International Fund, Junior Fund, Educational Foundation.

e) **Russ** confirmed that the following games have been discontinued: ACBL-wide North American 49er Pair games and District-wide Charity games.

f) **Russ** also answered a question about an upcoming STAC tournament and how it would fit into our Unit's schedule. The STAC tournament in question is scheduled for 3/29 - 4/4/10 and has been approved by the District.

B Education Chair, Ned Irving:

1) **Ned** reported that reimbursements had been approved for the education program at the Little Rock Club. **Ned** asked Dick Heil to present a brief overview of the LR educational successes. Dick explained LR "club series" hosted 66 brand new people, and a total of 145 students. He also offered to help other clubs with some of his insights.

2) **Ned** presented an education initiative to the Board members that could promote teaching potential, more player participation, and eventually more ACBL members. Ned's suggestions include:

- Offer TAP training in the Unit
- Reimburse teachers after TAP certification and teaching at their own club(s)
- The teacher would be required to conduct at least one class within a year
- Location could be HSV, LR, or another?

Following the discussion, Ned offered the following motion, which was seconded by Teri LaBove and unanimously accepted: Unit 161 will sponsor a 2-day TAP training, to be conducted in Little Rock in the first half of 2009, at a cost of approximately \$1700. Attendees will be responsible for a per-person share of the \$1700 and will be reimbursed by the Unit if they teach a class, within a time frame of 6 months to 1 year of the TAP training, for students under 300 masterpoints. The motion was unanimously approved and Ned made these comments: 1) Dick Heil will work with Ned to coordinate timing and publicity; 2) The training session will be held in Little Rock and attendees will be invited to stay in members homes; 3) The current policy of \$100 per diem, not exceed \$400, and tuition for two candidates per club per year with a 3-year commitment to teach will be temporarily suspended.

3) **Ned** circulated flyers advertising the Youth North America Bridge Championships. He asked that all Clubs receive the flyers and support the Youth Championships to the best of their ability.

C. Tournaments

1) **Teri LaBove** gave a brief report on the status of the DeGray tournament, quoting Charlie McCracken who has estimated first day attendance up 3 tables from 2007. Teri also stated that all section tops would get a coffee mug. DeGray food costs are up, therefore Sectional snacks have been limited.

2) **Cindy Devish** reminded the Board members of future dates: Resort City Regional will be held in Hot Springs the week of May 17-23, 2010. Beginning in 2012, we will have a split Regional with Mobile which should not alter attendance too much and will be without a lot of conflict from either Texas or Oklahoma.

3) **Russ Jones** spoke briefly about special games, i.e., NAP. He re-enforced the following information:

- B & C Stratas must play in Unit Finals
- A strata is optional but, if played together, master point awards will be increased
- 60% will qualify
- Optimum arrangement allows B&C to be balanced in all sections
- It is advisable to have written instructions for entries
- Each host club pays ACBL fees, food costs, club directors' fees

3), cont

a) A motion was offered by Jane Dickey, and seconded by Ned Irving: A club which holds NAP or team game qualifications is responsible to pay directors' fees according to Club practice, ACBL fees and other costs, and *retains profits*, if any.

b) Looking ahead to 2009: LR to hold Team games; Hot Springs to host NAP.

c) Russ explained the ACBL stance on charity games, for which there are no longer caps. Many clubs are presently paying an extra \$1.00/person which enables a Club rated game to become sectional-rated, thereby giving extra masterpoints. In an example of 16 tables, masterpoints could be increased from 1.6 for a regular game to 4.5 mps for the extra \$1.00/person..

C. 4. Ned Irving introduced a proposal for a 299 Sectional, which would be hosted by the Village Card Club in August of 2009. He asked if such an event could be sponsored by an individual club or by the Unit. Sharon Cissell offered a motion that Village Card Club be approved to hold a one-time 299er sectional in 2009 and if it proves to be a successful venture, other clubs could offer to hold a similar sectional in the future. After Teri LaBove seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved by the Board.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Standing Rules Review** had been undertaken by Ned Irving at the President's request. Ned had copies of his review, with commentary, but following motions adopted at this meeting, and clarifying comments, he requested this item be tabled until the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **President David** introduced the subject of "8 is Enough". David explained that the catchy phrase encompasses the idea of balancing teams with a total of no more than 8 points. He reminded the Board that at the present time we are handicapping teams at 1 ½ times the ACBL formula and as such we may be the only Unit, or perhaps District, to use the system. However, even better balance could be achieved between teams by using the 1 ½ formula plus the "8 is Enough". Stating that Little Rock will begin using the system in December for one game/month. A breakdown of the "8 is Enough" would look like this:

C = 0-499	1 point
B = 500-1999	2 points
A = 2000+	3 point

Team composition could look like this:

$$A + A + C + C = 8 \text{ points} \quad \text{or} \quad B + B + B + B = 8 \text{ points}$$

Subsequently, Dorothy Scharnhorst offered a motion that we try the new formula for one year, first tier only, in all sectionals held in Unit 161, beginning in 2009. After a second by Jan Farnsworth, the Board affirmed the motion unanimously.

The Board Meeting was adjourned. President David Siebert will announce candidate selection for service on the Board at the break between morning and afternoon sessions today.

Jan Farnsworth, Secretary