

ACBL-UNIT 161
MINUTES of MEETING
Saturday, November 7, 2009
DeGray Sectional
7:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Marilyn Biegler Margaret Kelly
Bob Case Teri LaBove
Jane Dickey Barbara Rankin
Ned Irving David Siebert

ABSENT: Sharon Cissell, Doris Ham, Dorothy Scharnhorst, Tony Tsui

GUESTS: Bob Davis, Cindy Devish, Dick Heil, Betty Schultz

I. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Ned Irving. The Secretary reported attendance noting Board members absences, and guests were welcomed.

A Board member had a request to record the Board meeting. After some discussion, it was decided that it was not necessary, as the secretary provides the meeting details in the minutes.

III. MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETING, April 4, 2009

Minutes of the previous meeting, April 4th at the Hot Springs Village Sectional Tournament, had previously been distributed. A motion was made by Jane Dickey and seconded by David Siebert to approve the minutes, passed by unanimous vote.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the two previous Treasury Summaries have been revised. Copies were distributed.

The Treasurer's report was presented for the period of March 20th to October 1st, 2009. The October 1st balance on hand was reported to be \$2,404.76, with a CD balance of \$27,584.47. The report was accepted and will be retained for audit. On October 13th \$7,000 was withdrawn without penalty from the CD to cover expenses.

Ned Irving, Unit 161 District Representative, has declined to accept his expenses reimbursement and Marilyn Biegler, Unit 161 Secretary/Treasurer, has declined the fee for meeting preparation.

V. OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. 1) President Ned Irving welcomed Hope and Pine Bluff to Unit 161.

2) As District 10 Unit representative, our President reported on the June 6th Board of Delegates meeting.

a) A tentative District 10 Regional Schedule was passed out to the Board members. [A copy is attached.](#) Hot Springs will hold a tournament May 17-23, 2010 and a tournament split with Birmingham May 14-12, 2012. HS is also scheduled to have a tournament in 2013 and 2015.

b) District 7, our partner in two STACs, has requested that we move the February STAC to Easter week starting in 2011. This was approved unanimously by the District 10 Board.

c) The District 10 Newsletter is now on the website, no longer in paper form.

d) Dick Heil has been name the new District 10 Education Liaison and Jane Dickey is the new District 10 Recorder.

e) A new handicap rule was approved for all District 10 tournament team games. If any team is under 20,000 points or less than 5,000 master points per person, they should have a handicap. If a team has more than 20,000 points or more than 5,000 master points per person, they do not get a handicap.

B) 1) Education Chairman Dick Heil informed the board of his education plans for the unit.

Dick reported on a road trip he and Ned took to Heber Springs and Fairfield Bay to lend support to their clubs to promote education with an emphasis on the Teacher Accreditation Program. They were not very successful in finding anyone to commit to work together to develop a teaching program for these clubs, Dick will continue to follow-up.

Bob Case reported that the Hot Springs club has been working hard to promote their education program with some success.

The Little Rock TAP taught by Dana Norton from ACBL was very successful with participants from Bella Vista, Mountain Home, Hot Springs, Hot Springs Village, Little Rock, Oklahoma and Tennessee. A teachers' workshop/seminar was held in 2009 and another is in the planning stage for January 2010 to be held at the Village Card Club, date and time TBA. Dick would like to see the Unit support two workshop/seminars a year to reinforce the teaching program.

The Little Rock club held a four week youth bridge class at a local school. They had three interested bridge teachers and six students. There was no parent interest in continuing the program. LR will approach middle school age children in their area in hopes of starting youth bridge programs. HS has conducted bridge classes at a local community college. Two HSV teachers are also interested in teaching a student program. ACBL offers a great deal of information on youth bridge programs and is very supportive of the efforts put forth by clubs and will assist by reimbursing some of the expenses.

Dick presented proposed changes of Unit 161 Educational Policy which were passed out to board members. He was asked to finalize the wording. [A copy of the final changes is attached to the minutes.](#)

Unit 161 has reimbursed the LRDBC \$1,000 and HSDBC \$131.93 for educational expenses for basic educational classes in 2009.

C) **Tournaments**

1) **Ned Irving** reported that the **HSV 299er Sectional Tournament** was very successful and great fun. 301 tables of bridge were played and the tournament made money. Players with 0-5 points played free and this group had a large attendance. In all stratas, trophies were given to overall winners and certificates were awarded to sectional winners. Life Masters served as caddies and workers. Players represented eight states. Russ Jones is to be commended for an excellent job as Director in Charge.

2) **Teri LaBove** stated that attendance was up slightly from last year on Friday (151 tables) at this weekend's **DeGray Sectional Tournament**. A contract for the 2010 tournament has been signed with the DeGray Lodge for November 5-7, 2010. The room rate will be \$85.00 per night.

3) **Hot Springs Regional Chairman/Treasurer Cindy Devish** reported that the tournament is scheduled for May 17-23, 2010. 90% of the committee chairmen from 2008 are returning. The first committee meeting is scheduled for November 13th.

The budget is in the works at present. Electronic scoring pads are being considered for the pairs games. They can be rented at 50 cents per table. Based on tables from 2006 (741) this cost would be approximately \$400. The attendance in 2008 was lower because of a tournament in Oklahoma City.

It is planned to advertise HS Oaklawn Gaming in hopes of getting a larger crowd. Tournaments held in gambling cities generally have higher attendance.

\$3,000 seed money has been received from the Unit Treasurer. The remaining seed money to be received from the Unit Treasurer will be dispersed in January (\$3,000) and March (\$2,000).

This will be Cindy's last year as Regional Tournament Chairman. In 2012 Ned and Cathy Irving will be the co-chairs. We have the sanction for 2012 and the Arlington Hotel has been reserved for May 14-20, 2012. The tournament in 2012 will be split with Birmingham. The new chairmen will need to request the sanction for 2013 and 2015.

Cindy was thanked for all her efforts making the past four Regional Tournaments the great success that they have been,

D) **Russ Jones** was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted the following **Special Games** report which was distributed to board members:

UNIT GAMES

The unit is granted 26 unit-rated games to be used as follows:

- 12 – Monthly unit-wide games without hand records
- 4 – Unit championships allocated to HSV
- 3 – Unit championships allocated to LR
- 2 – Unit championships allocated to HS
- 1 – Unit championships allocated to JB
- 1 – Unit championships allocated to PB
- 1 – Allocated for extended team game
 - Seven point format with: 3 points for over 1500, 2 points for 300-1500 and 1 point for under 300
 - Qualifying round at clubs by July 1: 1-6 teams send 1, 7-11 send 2, and >12 send 3 to DeGray

UNIT WIDE GAMES

1/11, 2/9, 3/10, 4/8, 5/7, 6/12, 7/5, 8/10, 9/8, 10/14, 11/12, 12/11

NAP/GNT

Unit qualifying for 2010

NAP to be scheduled between September 1 & December 31 – LR and Jonesboro

GNT to be scheduled between January 1 and April 1 – HSV and Jonesboro

NAPs will be reimbursed \$100/pair for participation at District 10 Finals (Flights B&C).

GNTs will be reimbursed \$200/team for participation at District 10 Finals (Flights A/B/C).

- Note: In 2009 we were up 50% in Flight A, 33% in Flight B, and the same in Flight C.

The BC NAP District finals are at the Jackson sectional January 15-17, 2010. The GNT District finals are at the Jackson sectional April 23-25, 2010.

STAC

2/1-7 & 6/14-20 & 12/13-19

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A) President Ned Irving formally accepted the nominating committee report submitted by Chair, Cindy Devish. The report will be presented to the members of Unit 161 between Sunday sessions of the tournament for confirmation of the following Board positions:

Position #2	Dick Heil	Little Rock	New
Position #4	Bob Davis	Hot Springs Village	New
Position #6	Dorothy Scharnhorst	Fairfield Bay	Incumbent
Position #8	Tony Tsui	Truman	Incumbent
Position #10 VP	Betty Schultz	Hot Springs Village	New

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) During the summer months the Board voted on the following via email:
- 1) Approval of a new proposed SR #16: An Audit Committee of up to 3 members who are not current members of the Unit 161 Board, assisted by a Board member to provide all requested information, shall be appointed by the President to review the financial records of the Secretary/Treasurer once a year and report to the Board, prior to the annual meeting.
 - 2) Approval of two Little Rock Sectional Tournaments in 2010 – 299er Sectional Tournament January 22-24 and Open Sectional Tournament July 9-11.
 - 3) The Board approved to have no entry fee for the 2009 Unit Championship game finals at DeGray, and to collect for lunch.

Teri LaBove made a motion, seconded by Bob Case to formally accept the above. The motion was passed unanimously.

- B)** President Ned Irving read a letter from the Unit 161 Auditor, Diane Patterson, stating that the books for January 1 – December 31, 2008, are in order. It was requested that final reports on the tournaments and a year-end financial summary would be helpful.
- C)** A discussion on the quantity of Unit 161 Sectionals was tabled for a future meeting.
- D)** Bob Case made a motion and seconded by Margaret Kelly to approve requests for two 299er Sectional Tournaments – August 2010 in HSV and January 2011 in LR. The motion was unanimously approved.
- E)** In order to simplify and unify the unit team championship and the sectional top bracket knockouts a motion was made by Bob Case and seconded by David Siebert to make both 8 point systems. Each team may have no more than 8 points. A=2000+ MP = 3 points, B=500-≤2000 MP = 2 points, and C=0-≤500 MP = 1 point. Each team is limited to only one A player. Your total number of masterpoints is determined as of January 1. Club qualifications must be held before June 30. If 1-6 teams participate in qualification, one team will compete in DeGray; if 7-12 teams participate in qualification, then two teams will compete in DeGray; with more than 12 teams participating, three teams will compete in DeGray. All Sectional Tournaments in the Unit (DeGray, Hot Springs Village, and Little Rock, but not including the 299er tournaments) will use the same 8-point system and limitation to one A player for the top bracket of each Knockout. Motion unanimously approved.
- F)** With the addition of Pine Bluff and Hope to Unit 161 there is a need to realign the Election Areas. President, Ned Irving, presented a Realignment of the Election Areas of Unit 161 which was distributed to all board members prior to the meeting. [A copy of the Realignment is attached to the minutes along with an explanation of Approach and Rationale.](#) A motion was made by Teri LaBove and seconded by Bob Case to approve the realignment. Motion unanimously approved. The Realignment of Elections Areas of Unit 161 will be posted in the game areas during the tournament and presented to the members of Unit 161 between Sunday sessions of the tournament for confirmation.
- G)** Some business may be conducted between meetings by email.

The next meeting will be at the Hot Springs Village Sectional Tournament on Saturday, March 27th at 7:30 a.m.

The Board meeting was adjourned.

Marilyn Biegler, Secretary/Treasurer