

**ACBL Unit 161
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Saturday November 2, 2019**

Meeting Site: Fall Foliage Sectional, Hot Springs, Arkansas

<u>Attending:</u>	<u>Attending</u>	<u>Not Attending</u>
Jay Lucas Deb Christian Ned Irving Kaye Stanley Tony Gunn	Rich Higgins Skip Henry Teri LaBove	GL Rhoades Dick Heil Dan Graham Blake Sanders

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Ned Irving. Eight voting members were present. Ned welcomed everyone to the board meeting. Ned asked if there were any questions or changes to the minutes from the March 9, 2019 board meeting which had been distributed by e-mail. The minutes were approved with no changes.

REPORTS

Kaye Stanley gave the Board Attendance Report. No members were automatically removed for non-attendance. Stanley then gave the Treasurer's report as of October 31, 2019. The report was approved with no discussion. Stanley also presented the "soft audit" report for 2018.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. PRESIDENT: Ned Irving

1. The ACBL QUIP shows the average of bridge players continues to rise – currently at 72.7. Our unit is currently the 2nd best for new member retention in year two (67%) and 3rd best in total member retention with only a 6% loss in membership.
2. The ACBL is establishing a large financial incentive for teachers.
3. There is a new digital marketing campaign targeting the 50 – 65 age group.
4. The ACBL Education Foundation is starting a website to teach people how to play bridge.
5. ACBL has paid Pianola to furnish results for tournament use. Teri LaBove will look into the possibility of our unit using them.
6. Charlie McCracken is scaling back his work load, and Bryan Russell is the new District 10 head director.
7. The ACBL is raising the age of seniors and super seniors; has designated February as education month; removed the statute of limitations on cheating; moved the discipline committee to the district level; and is requiring that the District Regional Oversight Committee review all hotel contracts for tournaments prior to signing.

B. EDUCATION

1. Tony Gunn did not have a report but has two education reimbursements to submit for approximately \$500.

C. TOURNAMENTS

1. Dick Heil was not at the meeting to give a report on the 49er Sectional. Little Rock's two tournaments, Hot Springs Village's two tournaments and the Unit Regional were all up in 2019. HSV removed the NLM from their August tournament which made a big difference in the turn out.
2. There had been some discussion about moving the 2021 Unit Regional to Oaklawn, but their new facilities will not be ready in time for our tournament.

D. UNIT COORDINATOR

1. Greg Frank submitted the Unit wide schedule for 2020 which was approved by the board. Greg will send the schedule to all Club Presidents and Club Managers for posting.

E. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. Dick Heil sent his recommendations for the 2020 slate of officers and directors for a vote at our official business meeting on Sunday, November 3rd. Since Ned Irving is stepping down to accept a seat on the District 10 board, Rich Higgins agreed to replace Ned as President. The slate was approved, and board members were asked to attend the meeting on Sunday to help with any questions during the voting.

F. Old Business:

1. Kaye Stanley presented the "soft audit report" that was prepared by Greg Bono. Greg found the financial statements to "resent fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ACBL Unit 161 and the results of its operations for 2018."
2. Jay Lucas now has control of our website domain and asked that be contract with Extra Awesome on a six month trial basis to maintain it. The cost will be \$40 per month. Board approved.
3. It was noted that the date for Standing Rule #11 has NOT been changed to September 30th. The dates are January 1 – August 31.
4. Standing Rule #17 was present to the board and approved.

G. New Business:

1. UALR has agreed to sponsor a bridge team through the Athletic Department. ACBL will provide books at no charge. Jay Lucas will follow up with them and see who we may get to approach UCA and Hendrix about sponsoring teams and creating a Collegiate Bridge Bowl.

2. Jay Lucas, Deb Christian and Kaye Stanley agreed to look into the possibility of a Unit Pair Championship much like our Unit Team Championship.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next board meeting will be held at the Hot Springs Spring Sectional on Saturday, April 6th at 8:30 a.m.