



**Unit 557 Board Meeting
July 18, 2023**

Members Present: Leo Dittmore, Joey DuRee, Fern Dunbar, Nancy Imbery, Chuck Laine, Linda Leventhal, Alan Olschwang, Ann Peacock, Lillian Slater, Rita Vanlierop

Call to Order: Lillian called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Approval of June Minutes: Alan moved and Fern seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report

- In Jenny's absence, Lillian reported June's ending bank balance was \$13,734.40. There were ten tables at the unit game for a deficit of \$53.46.
- This isn't a problem since we have a positive balance, and our goal is provide a service, not to be profitable.
- Lillian will start sending a Pianola email to remind bridge players of the monthly unit game.
- We are also advertising the game to people not in the Unit, for instance to Jeff Grotenhuis who runs Agile and our contacts at South Bay Bridge Club.
- All board members are encouraged to personally invite players and spread the word at other games they attend.

Hospitality Report

- Paul Pettler is back.
- Nancy will send a card to Jenny, who dislocated her shoulder.

Leisure World Report

Judy Jones reported via email:

- Jeanette Estill has joined the Board, taking the position of Vice President.
- Linda Nye has rejoined the Board.
- The month of June had 17 days of play with an average of 6.7 tables/day.

Long Beach Bridge Center Update

- Chuck reported that the club is in good shape financially.
- Attendance has been dipping during the summer months.
- The fees for the bridge classes are providing a valuable income stream, while developing future NLM/Open players. We are grateful for our teachers, all who volunteer their time.
- Chuck is offering half price card fees for NLM players with less than 100 masterpoints who play in the Open.
- *It's Stay and Play for \$5* after a class.

Directors

- There is still a need for more players to get training to become directors.
- Lillian noted that becoming a director is a way to give back to the club.
- Several members have the credentials to be directors but don't want to do it. We are asking these qualified members to be available to cover emergencies.

Team Games

The unit wants to develop the experience and appetite for team games, which are the best way to earn masterpoints at tournaments.

- Playing a team game requires different strategies than playing with a partner.
- Scoring a team game is initially confusing until players have experienced it several times.
- Many thought the best approach to prepare people for team games would be to take one day of supervised play and turn into a team game.
- Rob Preece organized and directed a NLM section that had 5 tables playing 12 boards during club's July team game. He plans to do so again.
- Since the NLM players were only charged \$5, Rob donated his director's fee to augment the reduced price.
- Lillian joined Rob in facilitating the game and is encouraging other Board members to organize their own teams for the games.

Sectional Game

- Historically the Unit 557 Sectional has been held the Veterans Day weekend in November.
- In order to get Sean Lui as the director, Lillian is applying to change it to the first weekend in November. Sean is already qualified to direct a Local Sectional.
- The Sectional will have two sessions of Open/NLM pairs on Saturday and a double-session team game on Sunday
- Lillian and Rita have agreed to work on this, but they would like others to volunteer to join them.
- Once ACBL approves the new dates, Ardie Laine will update the prior flyer for this year's tournament.

ALACBU/Regional Tournament

- New Officers: John Jones is new president, Morris “Mojo” Jones is vice president, Lillian is secretary, and Stan Holzberg is treasurer.
- A committee that looked at overages of the 2022 Regional Tournament identified Food as one. However, it was reported that the budget item did not include the costs for service charges and taxes. This points out that the district’s budgeting needs to improve and be more transparent.
- The preliminary estimate is that there were more tables this year, 773 versus 600 last year.
- Unfortunately, there was robbery of two computers and three laptops from a locked ballroom. Lillian could not answer if the district has any financial responsibility for their replacement.
- The Pro-Am was very successful with 38 tables.
- The hotel has been extremely flexible in the past. However, the tournament director is losing his contacts because of personnel turnover.
- The previous deposits were \$2,000. Now the hotel is asking for \$14,000, which can hopefully be negotiated down to \$5,000.
- There are two conflicts in setting dates for the future district regionals—another event in 2026 and the Olympics in 2028.
- Alan asked why there is only one regional. Lillian noted that there used to be two in prior years, Bridge Week in Long Beach in July and one in the valley in the fall/winter. Attendance at the ones in the valley was poor and caused the financial deficit still plaguing the district.
- Lillian pointed out that the Orange County tournaments are accessible to most of our unit.

The district’s GNT (Grand National Team) finals had 24 teams, up from last year’s 11.

Unit Game: August

- Director: Sean
- Boards: Lillian
- Ice Cream and cookies: Joey
- Money Collection: Lillian and Melanie
- Change: Judy

Alan moved and Leo seconded a motion to adjourn at 11:43. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Leventhal, Secretary.