



**Unit 557 Board Meeting
June 20, 2023**

Members Present: Leo Dittimore, Joey DuRee, Fern Dunbar, Jenny Ernest, Judy Jones, Chuck Laine, Linda Leventhal, Alan Olschwang, Ann Peacock, Lillian Slater, Melanie Smothers, Rita Vanlierop

Call to Order: Lillian called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Long Beach Bridge Center Update: Chuck presented a status report on the club:

- Chuck and Jenny continue to monitor and track finances in order to develop an accurate yearly budget.
- The club is averaging an income of \$12,000 a month with expenses of approximately \$10,000/month.
- The club averages 10 tables a day, which is 9 paying tables given Fill-ins and director Free Plays.
- All of this is positive news for the club.

Chuck was contacted by a group that is filming a documentary entitled “Bridge: The Ultimate Mind Game.” Having filmed in other areas, they would like to bring a camera crew to film at our club but are requesting a \$2,500 grant. This request is being referred to Bridge Brigade, as it is an educational expense.

The club has a critical need for more directors:

- Leo noted that Rob does an excellent job when he directs, but Rob is already heavily committed to teaching.
- Leo and Melanie were encouraged to get the training.
- Ellis Feigenbaum directed the team game when Alan Flower was sick and may need to be asked to direct others.

Pro-Am: Lillian noted that the June 6th Pro-Am was very successful with 16 tables.

- Thanks to the Pros who volunteered their time.
- Thanks to Chuck for the club providing the bagels that were picked up by Leo.
- We will consider holding another in the fall prior to our sectional.

Approval of Prior Minutes

- Alan made a motion to approve the April minutes and Leo seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jenny, the treasurer, reported:

- With income of \$260 and expenses of \$388.42, the checking account balance at the end of May was \$13,602.39.
- Attendance at the May unit game was 40 players, the lowest this year, resulting in a loss of \$101. Attendance has not returned to pre-COVID levels.

There was a discussion of how to increase attendance.

- Leo suggested the need for more publicity.
- Lillian noted that we do not have the ability to publicize beyond our member Pianolas. She sends an email reminder to players that are in other clubs.
- Everyone should remind people from other clubs each month.
- Judy added that it is important to keep it in on the 4th Sunday of the month so that unit members know that they can count on bridge that day.

Hospitality Report

- Nancy sent a get-well card to Paul and condolences to Judy Cook whose husband died. Joey is recovering from pneumonia and received face-to-face wishes for her continuing recovery.
- If you know of someone who is sick or bereaving, please forward their name(s) to Nancy Imbery

Bridgemate App: There was a discussion about the use of the Bridgemate app during the games.

- Fern noted that individuals using the Bridgemate app had an unfair advantage because awareness of their ongoing score could influence their style of playing.
- Enabling the end-of-round scoring percentage on the Bridgemates would provide that information to everyone playing.
- Board members had differing attitudes toward its use. Leisure World in Seal Beach and Laguna Woods provide that information to players.
- Lillian reminded people that the original survey in our club favored disabling that feature as it slowed down the games.
- Chuck stated that he was turning it on for now.
- Melanie pointed out that considerate behavior dictates that, if/as it is used, it needs to be checked and shared privately to allow people to know or ignore their scores, as they desire.

Team Game

Last Sunday's team game was very successful.

- The board discussed how to promote team games among newer/advancing players.
- There is a concern that the members of teams formed of the newest players are often discouraged when playing in an Open field.
- The board discussed ways to level the playing field so that it could be fun for everyone.

Alternatives discussed included:

- A separate NLM section
- Giving a handicap to NLM members. Lillian recalled that people were upset when they handicapped it before.
- Eight Is Enough – assigning each team a total of 8 points, A=3, B=2, C=1. A four- person teams couldn't add up to more than 8 points. There was a lively discussion of this.
- Leo noted that many people would stop coming if it were stratified.
- Melanie suggested that we use supervised play to introduce team games to newer members and ask for experienced volunteers to coach.
- Ann suggested announcing that we were going to do a team game instead of supervised play on a given day since people were already committed to coming. This would give people an opportunity to decide whether they like it.
- Fern noted that Leisure World did this and had a list of volunteers come as coaches.
- Fern suggested that we poll students and see if they would come if we modified the format to one of the above choices.

Leisure World: Judy Jones reported:

- Fred Riker and Linda Nye have resigned leadership positions last month. This month Ellen Kice also resigned.
- Howard Small is the new president.
- Last week, a very successful luncheon and Pro-Am event were held with 8 tables participating.
- Last month there were 16 days of play with an average of 6.9 tables. They are closing their Saturday game but may schedule it once every two months.

June 25th Unit Game

- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Change: Judy
- Money Collection: Jenny
- Cookies: Joey

Bridge Week July Regional

- Members are encouraged to attend the July Regional if we hope to have it in future years.
- Jenny is purchasing the candy the unit is donating for Hospitality's use.
- The unit needs to encourage Ams to attend the free Monday workshop and luncheon. Rob Preece and Hank Dunbar have about 100 people who have recently taken classes and could benefit from this experience.
- The unit needs to encourage/recruit members to volunteer as Pros for the game after the workshop.

November Sectional: Lillian stated that we are waiting for approval to change the date of the November Sectional in order to secure Sean as our director.

- Our original date of the Veterans Day weekend conflicts with his Palm Springs tournament.

Adjournment: Alan made and Leo seconded the motion to adjourn at 11:41.

Next meeting is on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Leventhal