



Unit 557 Board Meeting  
December 12, 2023

**Members Present:** Fern Dunbar, Judy Jones, Chuck Laine, Linda Leventhal, Alan Olschwang, Ann Peacock, Lillian Slater, Melanie Smothers

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Lillian did not get the November minutes published, so approval was deferred to our January meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jenny Ernest is in Hawaii. She reported that the November unit game lost \$68.30, primarily due to the redemption of Free Plays.

**Hospitality Report:** Nancy Imbery is playing in the Palm Springs tournament today and will report next month.

**Long Beach Bridge Center:** Chuck presented an overview of Long Beach Bridge Center's year:

- 2023 was a good year financially.
- Since the instructors donate their time, the substantial income from the classes is now supporting the club. Judy noted that new people are coming to the classes because of their good reputation in the bridge community.
- After the lease payment, the big expenses included \$30,000 for directors' fees and \$7,000 to ACBL for sanction fees.
- Board members noted that it was a positive thing that the landlords are undertaking renovations of the former Staples site for Sprouts, rather than tearing down the facility.
- Chuck has called for a Board of Governors meeting next Tuesday to review the year-end numbers.
- Judy will purchase a cake at Costco to celebrate Paul Pettler's birthday next week.

**Bridge Brigade:** Sharon Biederman approached Lillian about contributing to the club. Since we need new bidding cards, after consulting with LBBC executives, the club ordered enough for 12 tables. When the invoice arrives, Lillian will present it to Bridge Brigade.

**Bridgemates:** There was an extended discussion regarding the display of the “travellers” after each hand and on the Bridgemate app:

- Chuck said that his informal surveys showed that the club was divided at approximately 50/50 on this issue.
- It was noted that big clubs in our area – Mojo’s Pasadena club, South Bay, and Duncan do not show ongoing results/rankings.
- Melanie suggested that we follow the norm.
- The consensus of the Board was to wait until the end of the game to show this data.

**Leisure World Report:** Judy reported they averaged 6.7 tables during 12 days of play, 3 days a week for 4 weeks.

- Their club manager is still recovering from a stroke and Larry Slutsky is in the hospital.
- There were 12.5 tables at their holiday party. The new president Fred Riker and his wife Jeanette Williams did an excellent job of organizing it.
- Many of the Leisure World members are also attending the games at the Long Beach club.

### **District 23 ALACBU**

- Along with running our website, Rita has volunteered to be the webmaster for District 23 ALACBU’s website.
- Chuck expressed appreciation for Rita’s excellent work on our site.
- Chuck has agreed to let ALACBU use the club’s Zoom link to for their meetings, usually two or three a year.

### **New Business**

- A slate of officers including incumbents and new volunteers was presented.
- Sharon has resigned after many years of dedicated service.
- New volunteers for the Board include Casey Stiers, Mary McIntyre, Cherene Birkholz, and Bill McClean.
- ACBL is changing its method of compensating clubs. Instead of rebating units a flat 11% per member, it will give them an automatic 5% per member, and up to 5% for recruiting new members, and up to 5% for regaining lapsed or at risk of renewing members.
- Nancy and Joey have been successful in recruiting NLM members to come to a new game on Wednesday. There is an incentive of a reduced fee of \$5 for this new game.

### **December 17th Unit Game/Holiday Party**

- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Food: Fern is organizing the event with the unit providing ham and Cherene making a smoked turkey.
- We invited Ralph to play his keyboard with the unit “comping” his card fee.
- Attendees will be asked to bring a dish to share or make a donation to the Women’s Shelter.
- Ardie Laine will make a flyer for distribution.

**Adjournment:** Alan moved and Judy seconded adjournment at 11:44 a.m.. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Leventhal, Secretary