



Unit 557 Board Meeting
February 20, 2024

Board Members Present: Cherene Birkholz, Leo Dittemore, Fern Dunbar, Joey DuRee, Jenny Ernest, Judy Jones, Chuck Laine, Linda Leventhal, Mary McIntyre, Alan Olschwang, Ann Peacock, Lillian Slater, Melanie Smothers, Rita Vanlierop

Board President Lillian called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Approval of Prior Minutes will be made via email pending corrections.

Treasurer's Report

- Jenny reported that the January Unit game had the fewest attendees in recent history with only 32 players, resulting in a loss of \$131.
- Low attendance was at least partially due to the football playoffs on TV.
- The Unit's bank balance is at an all-time high of \$16,538, although we're still waiting for the ACBL to cash a \$500 check for last year's sanction fees for the November Local Sectional.

Hospitality Report: Nancy is camping with her family and will report via email.

Long Beach Bridge Center Update:

- Bridge Brigade is donating \$1500 a month to the Long Beach Bridge Center. Thank you, Bridge Brigade!
- This donation will help us upgrade our snacks and improve the club's ambiance.
- Lillian discovered a dozen sets of brand-new contents for bidding boxes in the front closet. When paired with the 12 tables of new bidding cards ordered, most of the old contents can be replaced. Kiyo Nagasishi is updating the boxes.
- There will be a cleaning "party" on Sunday, March 3rd, at 10:00 a.m.

Leisure World Report:

- Judy reported the average play in January was an average of 6.1 tables for 8 days of play.
- A clubhouse hasn't been available on Thursdays, resulting in fewer days of play.
- Larry Slutsky turned 90 and the good news is that his health has improved.

February 25 Unit Game:

- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Food: Judy will continue to purchase 3 Costco packages of cookies. Leftovers are donated to the club.
- Cleanup: ALL
- Fern has updated the plaques, distributed the Unit Free Plays to the winners, published the winners in Table Talk, posted the winners on the bulletin boards, and will acknowledge them at the March unit game.
- Board members should stay to help with cleanup after the Unit Game.

Old Business:

- Jenny will be in charge of the Master/Am game on March 26th at 9:30 a.m.
- A one-day NLM sectional will be held on May 4th. Once it is sanctioned, Ardie Laine will make a flyer to advertise it.
- The discussion on the upper limit of points for NLM games continued from last month. The Board voted 9 to 5 to keep the upper limit on the NLM game at 500 instead of a proposed 750.

New Business:

- Rita recommended communicating with members using software from Constant Contact instead of Pianola, which we had been using.
- Constant Contact is less expensive than Pianola and has a better format.
- ACBL has requested that we update our membership list. The club will be sending out an email asking members to affirm that they are still active.
- Alan moved and Leo seconded a motion that the unit allocates \$250 to co-sponsor with Long Beach Bridge Center a named day at the Regional Tournament in July. Closer to the date, we need to discuss ways to advertise the club/unit.
- The Regional Tournament in Long Beach is uncertain because the Hilton is not available in 2006 because of the Long Beach Centennial and in 2008 because of the Olympics.
- The Grand National Teams qualifier for the district will be played at Long Beach Bridge Center on April 13th and 14th. At Chuck's suggestion, Lillian will ask if it would be possible for people to kibitz the experts playing.

- Members can put the following future STaC dates on their calendars:
 - March 18 – 24, 2024
 - July 8 – 14, 2024
 - October 7 – 13, 2024 (pending approval)
 - March 10 – 16, 2025 (pending approval)
 - July 7 – 13, 2025 (pending approval)
 - October 6 – 12, 2025 (pending approval)

Royal Stacs:

- May 6 – 12, 2024
- August 19 – 25, 2024
- November 11 – 18, 2024
- May 5 – 11, 2025
- August 18 – 24, 2025
- November 17 – 23, 2025

Adjournment: Alan moved to adjourn. Jenny seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Leventhal