



Unit 557 Board Meeting
April 23, 2024

Board Members Present: Cherene Birkholz, Fern Dunbar, Joey DuRee, Nancy Imbery, Judith Jones, Chuck Laine, Linda Leventhal, Alan Olschwang, Lillian Slater, Casey Stiers

Board President Lillian called the meeting to order at 11:02.

Approval of Prior Minutes

- Alan moved and Joey seconded approval of the minutes. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report

- In Jenny's absence, Lillian reported that the March Unit game lost \$84.89.
- There were 14 tables with 56 players.
- Free-play cards are being redeemed and will probably affect the unit game for the next couple of months.
- We are not running the Unit Game to make money.
- The March ending checking account balance was \$15,538.06.

Hospitality Report

- Nancy sent a card to Joan Tschiriki who broke her hip.
- She will also send a card to Sherry Troeger.

Long Beach Bridge Center and Classes Update

- The ACBL Charity Game is tomorrow (Wednesday, April 24th).
- Since it will be a countrywide tournament, the provided hand analysis will not be posted on the club's website until 5:00 p.m.
- Encourage members to play at the club during the upcoming Stardust Week with 25% gold points and the Royal STaC week, also with gold points.
- Fern reported that that classes are doing well.
- Rob's class averages 12-15 tables on Monday.
- Hank's Bridge 1 and Bridge 3 classes are also well-attended.
- Board members expressed gratitude for volunteers Lynda Montgomery and Melanie Smothers who help with the classes.

Leisure World Report

- Judy reported a March total of 68 tables during 9 days of play, averaging 7.5 tables per day.
- Judy is no longer on Leisure World's board but will continue to act as a liaison from the Unit to the Leisure World Club.
- She has given Rita some email addresses of Leisure World members to ensure they're getting the bulletin.

Old Business

There was a discussion of the upcoming July Bridge Week Regional.

- There will be a Unit 557/Long Beach Bridge Center and a Ricky Bakovic Day as well as named events for John Melis, Peggy Waite, and Larry Topper sponsored by members of our club.
- Be sure to attend on Wednesday to support our sponsoring of the Unit 557/Long Beach Bridge Club Day.
- The Pro-Am has been discontinued, but there will be a free lesson on doubles by Marjorie Michelin and a 299'er game afterwards.

The Master/Am game was very successful.

- Cherene pointed out there was a need for Gluten-free options when we have food.
- It was decided to hold a Master-Am game twice a year.
- We will try asking Am's to bring a dish to share to avoid food costs.

New Business

The NLM Sectional has been approved for a May 18th double session.

- Sean will direct both the NLM Sectional and the Open that day.
- The tournament fee will be \$14 a session.
- Lillian is working with Ardie Laine to get a flyer out ASAP.
- Lillian gave a quick history of the November Sectional:
 - Before Lillian's time, it was an Open Sectional but, when it got too large for the club to host, it was changed to a NLM.
 - The NLM sectional tournament didn't occur during the pandemic.
 - When it was resurrected post-pandemic, there were not enough NLM players returning to support it. Since this was happening elsewhere, ACBL offered downgraded sectionals where there could be Open and NLM players managed by local directors instead of costly ACBL directors.
 - Last year ACBL changed this type of tournament to a local sectional with both Open/NLM players, a local director, and an added fee for a virtual ACBL "supervising" contact.
 - Historically, the November sectional was held over the Veterans Day weekend. Last year it was changed to the first week of November to ensure we could get Sean Lui as our local sectional director since his Palm Desert Club holds a sectional that same weekend.
 - This year that first weekend is too close to Ventura's Regional so we had to reschedule. Coordinating with ACBL and Sean, Lillian identified three possibilities; October 19-20, October 26-27, and November 16-17. After discussion, the Board voted to have November 16-17 as our first choice, with October 19-20 second and October 16-27 as the last choice.
 - Lillian is willing to be the Unit's Tournament Manager for another 2-3 years, but she is looking for someone to become a tournament assistant/understudy and ultimately replace her.

April 28th Unit Game

- Director: Sean Liu
- Boards: Lillian Slater
- Food: Joey will purchase cookies; Lillian will buy ice cream.
- Fern questioned whether we should have the May Unit Game on Memorial Day weekend, as it is currently scheduled, and there was a consensus that we should leave it as is.

Alan moved and Casey seconded adjournment at 11:43. All voted in favor.

The next meeting will be May 21st at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Leventhal, Secretary of Unit 557