



Unit 557 Board Meeting  
November 18, 2025

**Members Present:** Glenn Barry, Cherene Birkholz, Leo Dittimore, Joey DuRee, Jenny Ernest, Chuck Laine, Alan Olschwang, Lillian Slater, Casey Stiers, Rita Vanlierop, Melinda Wilson

President Leo called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October meeting were not yet distributed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jenny reported:

- The October unit game had 40 players with a loss of \$69. This was the lowest attendance this year, partially due to club members playing at the Ventura Regional.
- The checking account balance on 10/31/2025 was \$20,338.26.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Election of the 2026 Unit Board will be held during the December 14<sup>th</sup> holiday party/unit game:

- Two board members, Nancy Imbery and Mary McIntyre, have decided not to continue on the board.
- The remaining members of the current board have agreed to continue serving.
- ZSweedyk and Debra Collins have agreed to join the board.
- Leo will post the roster of nominations for the board and conduct the election during the December unit game.

**Unit Game: November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Food will be purchased by Melinda.

**Unit Game/Holiday Party: December 14<sup>th</sup>**

- The holiday party is organized and coordinated by Fern Dunbar.
- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Food will be a potluck with Fern and Hank providing the unit's ham for the main course.
- Players not contributing a dish will be encouraged to make a donation to the Women's Shelter.
- Chuck circulated the flyer made by Ardie for comment/feedback.
- Ralph Brunson is not available to provide entertainment, so Leo and Chuck will work on a sound system for Christmas music.

**Hospitality**

Melinda delivered a card and plant to Fern during her recovery from a hip replacement.

**Tournaments**

The November 15-16 Open Sectional was very successful:

- There were 20 tables in Open and 11 in the NLM for the morning session.
- The afternoon session had 17 tables in the Open and 9 in the NLM.
- Thirty-two teams competed in Sunday's Swiss Teams.

In spite of having to hire an ACBL director with his per diem and hotel costs, it is estimated that the unit netted \$3,791.09. This number will be finalized when the proceeds are received from ACBL.

- If an Open Sectional is held next year, it needs an assistant director to support the Tournament Director.

It takes a village—in this case a unit—to successfully run such an event.

- Special thanks to Casey who designed and managed reservations and room setup. Although the online reservation was frustrating to some members who are not tech savvy, it did ensure we did not exceed capacity. It also helped that Rita blocked those dates on the club's online reservation system. Due to the heavy rain, we had multiple cancellations so the entire wait list was able to play.
- Melinda Wilson was dedicated in finding partners to satisfy any request, no easy task.

Various issues were debriefed and need to be resolved prior to next year's tournament. Casey lead the discussion with items from his post mortem list:

- Establish a time for No Shows to lose their guaranteed reservation.
- Establish an absolute upper table count limit. 35?
- Provide 2 caddies for the Swiss team event.
- Provide a working PA system that can be heard in all rooms.
- Evaluate Signup Genius for partnership requests.
- Delegate the shopping for food from the Tournament Chair to others.
- Consider increasing card fees from \$14/session to \$15.

Thanks also to all the people who brought homemade goodies for the afternoon snacks. Melinda will send thank you cards to contributors who are not on the board. Goodies were received from:

- Board members: Cherene, Jenny, Joey, Lillian, Melinda, Rita
- Club members: Ardie Laine, Colleen Gardner, Allan Lubitz, Linda Nye, Nancy Toussaint, Rebecca Ortega, Trudi Lamendola

### **Long Beach Bridge Center**

Chuck reported:

- The ice machine is broken and is out for service.
- The club has ordered 40 upholstered chairs to be delivered some time in January. They are the same type as the ones at the Pasadena Bridge Club but red.
- The GNT finals will be held at the club on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. The district will pay rent of \$200/day.

Joey reported that the club earned \$640 from the unit-sponsored STaC games this year versus \$220 from the district-sponsored ones. She plans to schedule 3-4 unit-sponsored STaC's next year.

**Leisure World Report:** Glenn reported that Leisure World's table counts are up. With Joey's support, their directors are now using "+Hacks" to upgrade any qualifying game for ACBL's extra points.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 16 , at 11 a.m.

Respectfully reported by Lillian Slater, Secretary