



Unit 557 Board Meeting
February 17, 2026

Members Present: Glenn Barry, Cheren Birkholz, Leo Dittimore, Joey DuRee, Fern Dunbar, Jenny Ernest, Colleen Gardner (LBBC board), Chuck Laine, Alan Olschwang, Lillian Slater, Casey Stiers, Z Sweedyk, Rita Vanlierop, Melinda Wilson

President Leo called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Minutes: The January minutes were approved and filed without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Jenny reported:

- The January unit game had 14 tables with 56 players, making a profit of \$27.10. Eleven board members and one fill-in were comped.
- The balance of unit's checking account at the end of January was \$24,673.88.

Jenny has filed the required state documents for the unit.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey and Ardie Laine have completed design of the ¼ page advertisement for the Grunion Gazette.

- It will run the two weeks prior to the start of each Bridge 1 cycle, i.e., each quarter.
- Z and Debbie Collins will evaluate using other social media to promote the club/unit's activities.

February is the month to honor our many volunteers, i.e., We LOVE Our Volunteers. Lillian noted the event was successful and cost \$255 for club Free Plays cards and \$60.98 for refreshments/decorations.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion of the interface and shared activities between Long Beach Bridge Center and Bridge Brigade.

Rita and Z will review and evaluate possible options for an online partnership “desk.”

Long Beach Bridge Center

A subset of the Long Beach Bridge Center board discussed and advised disciplinary actions on two members. Chuck will handle all follow-up.

ACBL Update

Leo reported that ACBL is willing to pay for a “party to bring in new members.”

- ACBL membership will be required to play in a regional or national tournament (versus paying extra card fees as in the past).
- Non-members can still play in sectional for an additional fee.

Fern stated that ACBL provided Hank with 17 contacts as potential students. Most new student enrollment is via word-of-mouth with only two new students from OLLI.

- Teachers will continue to encourage new students to join ACBL.

Unit Game: February 22

- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Refreshments: Melinda.

Hospitality

Melinda sent sympathy cards to the families of John Petrie, Larry Slutsky, and Baum Harris. She will also send one to Lynn Danielson.

Tournaments

Lillian has applied for sanctions as follows:

- NLM Pairs Sectional on Saturday, May 16
- Open Sectional on Saturday-Sunday, November 14-15, with Pairs on Saturday and Swiss teams on Sunday.

- July and October unit games will be part of the district STaC's; however, the unit will absorb the extra costs, keeping our \$10/\$5 card fees.
- The December holiday party will be December 13.

Leisure World Report: Glenn reported that Leisure World is averaging seven tables per game.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17, at 11 a.m. Wear green for St. Patrick's Day.

Respectfully reported by Lillian Slater, Secretary