



Unit 557 Board Meeting  
January 20, 2025

**Members Present:** Glenn Barry, Debbie Collins, Leo Dittimore, Fern Dunbar, Jenny Ernest, Chuck Laine, Alan Olschwang, Lillian Slater, Melanie Smothers, Melinda Wilson

President Leo called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

**Minutes:** The December minutes were approved and filed without objection.

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

- As stated last month, the December holiday party had a profit of \$178.58.
- In total the unit lost \$171 on unit games in 2025.
- The checking account balance on 12/30/2025 was \$24,679.75.
- The IRS 990-N (e-Postcard) and California Statement of Information have been filed for the unit.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No election of officers was required as they are serving two-year terms.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Leo reported:

- ACBL is emphasizing retention and growth by enrolling new members. Units are encouraged to reach out to lapsed members.
- ACBL is gaining 5% but losing 8% so this trend needs to be reversed.
- Units are encouraged to hold the Grassroots Games to generate funds for district NAP and GNT stipends to Nationals.

Fern announced:

- Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards will be recognized at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> unit game.
- Fern will remove the plaques for updating after the final numbers are posted.
- Since the unit has money, increasing Unit Free Plays to 3-2-1 for first, second, and third place Ace of Clubs was discussed. A motion was made to do so by Lillian, seconded by Chuck, and unanimously approved by the board.
- Fern will begin distributing these unit Free Plays as soon as the final data posted by ACBL.

**Unit Game:** January 25th

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

### **Hospitality**

Melinda will provide her report at the next meeting.

Chuck reported his conversation with John Petrie's son Rand regarding John's death/memorial. Carolyn Byrnes is organizing a memorial game for John in February.

Glenn will obtain an address for condolences to Larry Slutsky's family. Lillian obtained Sandra Schlosser's address for condolences on Baum Harris's death.

### **Tournaments**

Lillian is applying 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.

Reviewing our unit game dates:

- May's has to be held on Sunday, May 24, even though it's Memorial Day weekend. All other Sundays have conflicts.
- July and October unit games will be part of 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.

## **Long Beach Bridge Center**

Chuck reported that club funds will be spent:

- On infrastructure such as cleaning air conditioner ducts and adjusting its air flow, filters for the ice machine, etc.
- Several complaints have been received that the new chairs are too short or the old tables too high. Chuck and the Fix-It team will be evaluating options going forward.
- Today's game has a catered lunch, one of which is being scheduled each month. Lillian requested that the red bowl requesting donations be clarified. If it's for tips, then it should say so versus donations to defray costs of catering. Chuck will handle.
- Too many pairs request N-S and, when the maximum is exceeded, the reservation system deletes the request without telling the person making the reservation. This misunderstanding created an upset for one of the regular plyers. Chuck is handling.

**Leisure World Report:** Glenn reported that Leisure World will raise its card fees by \$1 effective July 1 to support its salary increase for its directors. A member made a \$1,000 donation to cover these costs for the first quarter.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17, at 11 a.m.

Respectfully reported by Lillian Slater, Secretary