



Unit 557 Board Meeting
March 17, 2026

Members Present: Glenn Barry, Cherene Birkholz, Debbie Collins, Leo Dittimore, Joey DuRee, Jenny Ernest, Chuck Laine, Alan Olschwang, Lillian Slater, Melanie Smothers, Casey Stiers, Z Sweedyk, Rita Vanlierop, Melinda Wilson

President Leo called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

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

Treasurer's Report: Jenny reported:

- The February unit game was small with only 28 players, partly due to its conflict with Larry Slutsky's memorial. Given this attendance, the game had a loss of \$171.45.
- The balance in the unit's checking account at the end of February was \$24, 458.29.

OLD BUSINESS

The first ad regarding new bridge classes appeared in the Grunion Gazette. Bridge 1 classes started with 5 tables, including two students recruited from this ad.

- The unit will investigate getting future classes listed in Long Beach's Parks and Rec schedule.

Alan will research to see what documents he can find regarding Bridge Brigade's bylaws, incorporation, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

Boards: Lillian noted that the club needs another volunteer to make at least one set of boards each week. Cherene offered but Leo suggested we first try to find new people to volunteer.

Publicity: Z and Debbie have undertaken publicity regarding Long Beach Bridge Center's classes and special activities:

- Both posted information on Nextdoor about the new bridge classes that were starting, recruiting an additional student.
- Z has initiated Facebook and Instagram accounts for the club.

Mentors: Debbie is organizing and hosting an opportunity for graduating Bridge 3 students to be assigned a mentor to introduce them to the supervised-play format of the 199'er game on Tuesday, March 24.

- She plans to continue this after each graduation, visiting the last class to issue a personal invitation.
- A motion to pay for the refreshments for this game was made by Lillian, seconded by Jenny, and unanimously approved. Receipts should be submitted to Jenny.

Long Beach Bridge Center

Casey, John Kilmer, and Chuck installed a new sound system with speakers in each of the three rooms and an additional one at the back of the larger room. Thanks to them for their hard work

Casey designed and 3-D printed board holders for the tables to minimize the need to use chairs to pass the boards. He enlarged and cleaned the slots on each table, a job that took him two afternoon/evenings as well as purchasing a new vacuum system for cleanup. Casey, thank you for your creativity and hard work!

Chuck announced that an anonymous donor made a significant contribution to the club. A Thank You card was circulated earlier and signed by board members.

Effective April 1, per prior announcements, the Saturday game will return to \$10 and the Monday free 12-board NLM game will be converted to a Stay-and-Play \$5 NLM or discontinued.

The club needs a procedure for scheduling partners for Betty Jackson as it is too much to ask the directors to find a partner each day:

- Lillian is working on a system.
- We would like to have volunteers for three days a week.
- If Betty wants to play more than that, she will be responsible for finding her own partner unless the director chooses to use her to avoid a sit out, etc.

Chuck noted that one director has been manipulating stratifications to award points to newer players. After discussion, it was decided to stop this practice henceforth.

Rita, Leo, and Chuck noted that a reliable Wi-Fi Extender needs to be obtained and installed for the back room.

ALACBU

Lillian announced that a district board meeting is scheduled via Zoom for this Saturday, March 21. Cherene is unable to attend due to attending a tournament. Debbie volunteered to take her place.

Unit Game: March 22, Celebration of 2025 Winners

- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Refreshments: Melinda will bring a cake plus goodies to celebrate the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners.

Hospitality

A sympathy card was sent to Lynn Danielson.

Tournaments

The flyer for the NLM Pairs Sectional on Saturday, May 16, has been approved by ACBL and uploaded to its website. Please share information about this tournament with friends in other clubs.

To clarify, district STaC's that scheduled on unit-game days will be used. This is a change from prior years. The unit will absorb the extra table fees but Silver Points will be awarded

- Unit-sponsored STaC's, i.e., April's have been scheduled Monday-Saturday. The unit may want to change this next year.

Leisure World Report: Glenn reported that Leisure World is increasing its table fees by \$1 effective in April.

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

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, at 11 a.m.

Respectfully reported by Lillian Slater, Secretary