



Unit 557 Board Meeting
April 21, 2026

Members Present: Cherene Birkholz, Debbie Collins, Leo Dittimore, Fern Dunbar, Joey DuRee, Chuck Laine, Lillian Slater, Melanie Smothers, Z Sweedyk, Melinda Wilson

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Jenny reported:

- The March unit game had 12 tables with 48 players. Thirteen Free Play cards were redeemed, 10 board members were comped as well as one fill-in. Extra refreshments were provided as it was the unit's celebration of the Ace of Club and Mini-McKenney winners. The game had a loss of \$103.20. With the Free Play awards to the winners, we expect most unit games to lose money until they are redeemed.
- The balance in the unit's checking account at the end of March was \$24,392.59.

OLD BUSINESS

Bridge Brigade: Alan could not locate its articles of incorporation online. Additionally, some state paperwork is due soon.

- Lillian will talk to Steve Ramos about Lynn Danielson organizing a transition of its board.

Two volunteers were recruited to help make boards: Patty Aichele and John Markovich.

NEW BUSINESS

Facebook: Z reported that a new Long Beach Bridge Center Facebook page has been created. Please follow and post to generate interest and name recognition.

ACBL: Leo reported that ACBL will fund events for recruiting new players.

WiFi: Leo brought in an extender to boost the Bridgemates' signal in the back of the big room and the back room. He discovered:

- Bridgemates operate on their own their own signals, not through WiFi.
- Sean Lui suggested moving the Bridgemate controller to a more central location.

Tuba Notes: Board members complimented Leo on his Tuba Notes columns dealing with good behavior at the table and the passing of the boards.

Long Beach Bridge Center

Chuck discussed the Bridge Bulletin article about generating new members, noting that we need an evening game for students and people who are still working.

- Cherene indicated she would be willing to direct if it were scheduled on one of her free evenings. Monday evening is out because South Bay hosts a game that night.
- Chuck suggested starting the game at 5 but the consensus was 6 p.m. would better serve working people.
- Chuck and Cherene will discuss further and report back.

Rita has recommended updating the two computers connected to the dealing machines.

Sean Lui will direct the Open game on the Saturday of the NLM tournament, May 16th.

Unit Game: April 26th

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

Hospitality

Melinda sent condolence cards to Lynn Criss and David Finkel. A Get Well was sent to Alan as he recovers from his surgery. Dr. Ed Piken will be sent a sympathy card for the death of his sister-in-law.

Tournaments

Lillian reviewed the final plans for our May 16th NLM Spring Sectional:

- Shopping for refreshments on Thursday/Friday.
- Baking Ghiradelli brownies Friday night.
- Help from board members to set up morning refreshments before the mini-lesson would be appreciated
- Rob Preece's mini-lesson required boards and handout duplication, which have been completed.
- Rita is sending a Pianola reminder about the tournament.
- Jenny is arriving early to help collect game fees.
- Rita will provide Square support for players paying with credit cards.

Joey suggested buying a sign (or two) to place in the windows visible from parking lot to help new players locate the club. Discussion involved its permanence versus just putting up for special events such as tournaments, GNT, new Bridge 1 classes. No resolution was reached.

, especially for special events such as the tournaments, GNT, etc.

Other District Events

- District GNT Finals will be held at Long Beach Bridge Center on May 31. Brandon Sheumaker will be directing.
- NAP District finals are scheduled on October 4th.

Leisure World Report: Glenn reported that Leisure World is hosting a Pro/Am on April 27th.

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

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19, at 11 a.m.

Respectfully reported by Lillian Slater, Secretary