



Unit 557 Board Meeting  
May 19, 2026

**Members Present:** Glenn Barry, Debbie Collins, Leo Dittimore, Fern Dunbar, Joey DuRee, Chuck Laine, Alan Olschwang, Lillian Slater, Melanie Smothers, Z Sweedyk, Melinda Wilson

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

**Minutes:** The April minutes have not yet been distributed for approval.

**Team Game:** After an extended discussion regarding the scheduling of the June team game on Father's Day, it was decided to keep it as is. Changing from its regular third Sunday tends to create as many problems as it solves.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lillian presented Jenny's report:

- The April unit game had 60 players for 15 tables. Ten unit Free Play cards were redeemed and 11 board members were comped as was one fill-in. The game had a net loss of \$16.25.
- The balance in the unit's checking account at the end of April was \$24,322.60.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Z and Debbie provided updates on their NLM recruitment efforts:

- They are considering starting a Friday morning mentor game.
- They are conducting a survey to restart afternoon NLM games.

Z reported that listing Bridge 1 classes in Long Beach's Parks and Rec schedule would cost \$25/recruited player:

- Joey pointed out this is inexpensive compared to the Grunion Gazette ad.
- The board decided to proceed in listing Bridge 1 in the quarterly flyer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Club Directory:** Glenn questioned if/when club members would receive an updated directory of players:

- Members can access the updated copy located at the directors' desk by the telephone.
- Maintaining a club-generated directory involves a lot of work/follow-up.
- Discussions focused on generating an updated directory with a spreadsheet downloaded from ACBL Score. Joey, Leo, and Chuck will determine if this is a viable solution.

**ACBL Changes:** Leo updated the board on upcoming plans:

- ACBL is upgrading to AS400 computers late this year.
- Changes to the ACBL score system will occur as a result.
- The reservation system needs upgrading as well. RSVPbridge.com is one possibility.
- ACBL is also evaluating use of cell phones as "Bridgemates" to enter/accept board scoring.
- Expect some hiccups/issues as these transitions occur.

## **Tournaments**

Board members who played in the May 16<sup>th</sup> NLM Sectional provided anecdotes as to its success.

- As always, Sean was an incredible director.
- Refreshments were appreciated.
- Guests were impressed by the club.

Lillian presented Jenny's financial recap of the tournament:

- 16 tables in the morning session and 15 in the afternoon with only one fill-in.
- The two-session discount remains very effective in keeping larger afternoon games.
- At least half of the income was via Square credit card transactions.
- Income of \$1,550 versus expenses of \$917.22 resulted in a profit of \$648.78.
- Special thanks to Rob Preece for his mini-lesson (and expert help setting up refreshments) and to all the board members who played in the tournament and assisted in its setup/cleanup.

Lillian was pleased that so many of the club's NLM's scored some Silver.

## **Hospitality**

Melinda sent thinking of you/Get Well cards to Linda Stein, Linda Nye, and Patty Frazier.

## **Long Beach Bridge Center**

Chuck provided a club report:

- Moving boards during the game is improving. Most players like and use the new board holders. Hopefully, the use of chairs to pass boards will decrease over time.
- While we want to support our aging population, some will do better in Supervised Play versus the Open game. Chuck will be talking to Betty Jackson's caregiver to recommend this option.
- The club is service contract with Orkin for \$125/month to deal with the cockroach issue.

Several people mentioned the absence of places to put drinks at many tables:

- Leo will work with John Kilmer to develop an update schedule.
- Z volunteered to apprentice and help with this effort.

Rita has recommended updating the two computers that connect to the dealing machines.

Joey noted that birthday celebrations will be moved from the first Friday to the first Monday of each month.

- Alan Flower's charcuterie refreshments make it difficult to have the cake on Friday.
- The June calendar does not reflect this change as it was already published; however, future ones will reflect the new day.

**Unit Game:** May 24<sup>th</sup>

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

**Leisure World Report:** Glenn shared that Leisure World is recruiting a new president for the club. As reported earlier, its table fees will increase by \$1 effective July 1.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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

Respectfully reported by Lillian Slater, Secretary