

## Minutes of Regular Zoom Meeting of ACBL Unit 507 Board

April 14, 2026 5:30 PM

**In attendance** at the outset of the virtual meeting were: President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Stu Goodgold, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, and Board members Joanne Cornbleet, Mischel Postas, Linda Rocha, Betsy Wagner, and Lynn Bartz, along with Lynn Yokel as guest of the board and Pepper Ravera as guest of the President. Milind Girkar joined the meeting at 5:44 PM. Judy Fisher was absent.

**The minutes of the March meeting** that had been circulated were deemed approved by unanimous consent.

**The treasurer's report** was accepted with thanks and without questions. Regarding the sectional financials, Mich noted the spring sectional made close to \$2,000. Karen explained that a liability appearing in the March report reflected payments that were actually made in April, after the ACBL funds had been received and the facility bill had been paid.

**Regarding the spring 2026 sectional debrief**, Linda Rocha reported that the event was a significant improvement over the fall sectional, with better attendance and strong volunteer support from Board members and from Unit 503. The Sunday lunch catered by Dawn's Deli — the same caterer used by Palo Alto and San Mateo — was well received. Linda had coordinated with Sandra at Dawn's Deli and said she would not hesitate to use them again. The caterer also offered to provide Saturday lunches if the Board wished.

Betsy Wagner noted that if food is available on-site, the ACBL permits the Saturday afternoon session to begin at 2:30 PM rather than 3:00 PM. Lynn Yokel confirmed this rule. Lynn Bartz explained that while directors receive a per diem intended to cover meals, requiring them to leave the premises for lunch effectively reduces their break to almost nothing; on-site food satisfies the ACBL's break requirement while keeping the schedule tighter. Stu Goodgold moved that the Saturday afternoon start time for future sectionals be changed from 3:00 PM to 2:30 PM, conditioned on the Unit providing on-site lunch. Mischel Postas seconded the motion. The motion passed with six votes in favor, one opposed (Lynn Bartz), and one abstention (Milind Girkar).

The Board agreed by consensus that the fall 2026 sectional will offer the same events as the spring 2026 sectional: a 99er game, Silver Rush pairs, and Open pairs on Saturday, and a teams event on Sunday, with the 2:30 PM Saturday afternoon start. The 99er game attracted approximately five tables and generated few complaints about junior players, though some minor behavioral incidents were noted.

**Regarding 2027 sectional preparations**, Linda reported she had secured facility permission from the Palo Alto Bridge Club and obtained sanctions for two sectionals: spring on May 1–2 and fall on November 6–7. Stu suggested looking into an earlier spring date in January or February when there are fewer competing sectionals, but Linda explained that the facility had very limited availability after accounting for Jewish holidays and other conflicts, and that the chosen dates were essentially the only practical options. The Board approved the same event format for both 2027 sectionals as was used in spring 2026, and Linda was authorized to prepare flyers accordingly. Mich also asked Linda to begin investigating dates for 2028, noting that the Palo Alto club is already scheduling its 2028 events.

**Mich reported on the Unit Presidents' meeting** he attended on April 12. He described two ACBL programs. The first, "Gold for Good," converts masterpoints earned at club games to gold points during a designated week; participants donate to the ACBL Charity Foundation and must attend at least one face-to-face game. Stu Goodgold, a trustee of the Charity Foundation, clarified the program's mechanics

and noted that the naming coincidence with his own name was entirely unrelated to his involvement. The second program, formerly known as the Longest Day and recently renamed, involves the ACBL donating table fees to charity; the Wednesday directors would handle it locally if anything is planned. Mich also noted that the ACBL is working to streamline the process by which guest members convert to full membership, and that face-to-face Bridge Battle kits are available to Units at no charge.

**Joanne Cornbleet presented the membership report.** Membership has declined every month since the end of 2025 and now stands at 469, down from 491 at year-end. In March, the Unit added four new members (three reinstated members and one transfer from Texas) and lost nine (one transfer out, one deceased, and seven whose memberships lapsed at the end of February). Guest membership moved from 78 to 79. Joanne sent welcome emails and pamphlets to all new guest members. She called Mary Stewart, one of the lapsed members with higher masterpoints; Mary and her husband Malcolm said they remain interested in bridge but prefer social play over duplicate. Advanced players who know Malcolm were encouraged to reach out to him. Mich noted that the Samuels, discussed at prior meetings, did renew their membership after misunderstanding when it had expired.

Joanne identified the ACBL's policy change on guest membership as the primary driver of an apparent decline in membership: since guest membership no longer expires and guests may accumulate up to 20 masterpoints without converting, there is little incentive to upgrade. Mich suggested that Board and District 21 representatives should advocate with the ACBL to reconsider this policy. Stu explained the ACBL's reasoning — that members become more committed once they reach a masterpoint threshold — and Joanne acknowledged the transition may simply take time to play out.

The decline in membership was also discussed in the context of limited games. Newer players sometimes have negative experiences at the Wednesday club in Campbell and end up playing at clubs in Palo Alto or Santa Cruz that offer separate limited sections. Joanne noted that roughly one-third of players in Unit 503's Thursday 499er games are Unit 507 members. The Wednesday directors indicated they plan to run a 499er game in the near future and will coordinate with Joanne on publicity.

Joanne proposed that the Unit send a monthly marketing email highlighting games with extra masterpoints, directed to a 30-mile radius rather than only Unit members. It was explained that Marketing Solutions allows a radius blast or a unit-member blast, but not both simultaneously.

Mich reported that he had spoken with Marc and Liz of Unit 503 about concerns that individual U503 members had solicited U507 members to switch their ACBL affiliation. Marc and Liz stated it is not U503 policy and said they would raise the matter with their own Board. Lynn Bartz announced that she is chairing a new website committee, with Milind Girkar and Ray Yuenger as members, which will meet the following week to address email delivery problems and other website issues.

**Ray reported no new District or League business.** The next D21 Board meeting will be approximately mid-June, following the Sacramento regional.

**Regarding the annual membership meeting,** the Board agreed to continue the traditional format: a barbecue with potluck side dishes and desserts brought by members, and no charge to anyone. Mich will print and sign the Ace of Clubs certificates, including those for the online (virtual) club category, and will provide Mischel Postas a list of recipients. Mischel will order Mini-McKenney medallions based on a list Ray will compile. Stu called attention to the accomplishment of Li Zhang of San Jose, who won the ACBL-wide 300–500 masterpoint Mini-McKenney by a factor of two over second place and also won the Virtual Ace of Clubs in the same category; Mich said he would give special recognition if Lee Zhang attends. Stu will contact Will Watson about directing the game and recommended two email blasts — two months and one month before the event — once Lynn Bartz has the final details.

Regarding a contingency for hot weather, since the church does not reliably provide air conditioning, the Board discussed bringing ice and iced tea. Stu proposed soliciting charitable donations at the meeting since it falls during the Gold for Good week. A QR code was suggested so that attendees could donate directly to the ACBL Charity Foundation.

**Regarding the joint team game,** Mich noted that October 5 does not conflict with religious holidays and continues to explore the possibility of a joint event with Units 503 and 498.

**For items for “Prez Sez,”** Mich noted he will acknowledge spring sectional volunteers, for which Linda provided a list, and will solicit Board candidate nominations, asking interested candidates to contact him by May 15. Mich then asked Stu to take the gavel briefly and, with the Board’s unanimous consent, thanked Judy Fisher, whose term is ending, for her long and dedicated service both as a director and as a Board member.

Mischel Postas noted that Pat Wong had passed away, as reflected in Joanne’s report as the one deceased member for the month. Mich confirmed he had noted the passing in his recent President’s column.

**As floor business,** Ray moved that the Board authorize nine additional unit championship games for the Wednesday directors beyond the twelve already authorized for 2026, with the Unit continuing to reimburse the extra per-table costs so that player entry fees remain unchanged. This would allow the Wednesday game up to two unit championships per month, reserving capacity for the Unit’s own games. Mischel Postas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Mich reviewed the action items:** annual meeting planning will continue, and Mich will pursue the joint team game. The next meeting was scheduled for May 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM. The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by

—Ray Yuenger