

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

January 9, 2024 5:30 PM

In attendance: In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Stu Goodgold, Doug Hong, and Norman Marks. Milind Girkar appeared as a guest. Lynn Bartz joined at 5:48. Betsy Wagner joined at 5:51.

The **minutes** were approved as circulated with a change proposed by Norman Marks.

The **financial report** was received. The cash balance in December was \$20,543. The board unanimously approved the report as the annual financial report.

A location for a **face-to-face meeting** in February was discussed. The board agreed to meet face-to-face at the next meeting.

Regarding the **holiday party**, Stu suggested it be publicized again. (Lynn Bartz was absent for this discussion.) There weren't many signups yet. All tasks were assigned. The consensus was there is no need to call people about attendance.

Regarding the **spring sectional**, Ray said a sanction was eventually approved and Palo Alto has agreed to the weekend of April 26 through 28. Mich had not yet spoken to Bruce about his involvement. Going forward, a team involving Norman, Ray, and Lynn will handle the sectional details. Ray pointed out that it would simplify sanction applications for one of the team to be designated as sectional coordinator.

When Lynn B. appeared, the details of another blast about the holiday party were agreed on. Mich suggested that Lynn prepare a flyer for the fall sectional as well as the spring sectional.

Mischel gave the **in-and-out report** highlights. Unit membership is now 492.

Norman described the latest developments in the ACBL's **return to the fold** program. He has been emailing lapsing members identified by the ACBL. The latest email communication from the ACBL identified a target number of people to save and did not identify who had returned to the fold, though the list of people to be saved has changed since the beginning.

There have been no recent D21 meetings or ACBL Board meetings to report.

Regarding **new business** and the **fall sectional**, D21 has assigned November 1 through 3 as U507's preferred weekend. Palo Alto has another sectional scheduled the prior weekend. Ray read out the full D21 sectional schedule for October. He discussed Palo Alto's new rental rates for sectionals. The table fee is now \$16 with a cap of \$800 a day. To use the club on Friday requires a payment of \$400 to the Friday game directors.

There was discussion about cutting back the fall sectional from three days to two. Norman asked Karen to calculate the break-even point for Friday.

The Board tentatively approved the weekend of November 1 through 3 for our fall sectional. The decision about a Friday session was deferred pending Karen's report.

The possibilities of holding a **limited sectional** for non-life masters or a **standalone unit championship** were discussed. Ray agreed to look at the ACBL requirements and look into potential dates. Stu pointed out that limited sectionals run by local TDs are also an option. It was suggested to coordinate a nlm sectional with the membership game. Ray read from the codification that a limited sectional must be at least one day. Stu will follow up with McKenzie Myers.

Ray mentioned that **non-life master regionals** are being held in conjunction with sectionals. U507 could try to do it at our sectional. It would likely take more space than the PABC allows. We'd need to understand the cost of the IFES hall. Mich said we might try a different joint event before considering a NLMR.

Norman said there will be **no strategic plan** for 2024.

The February meeting was scheduled for the 6th instead of the 13th. Betsy questioned holding a face-to-face meeting. A consensus agreed to the Garret in the Pruneyard. Stu pointed out pizza will be more expensive than it used to be pre-pandemic.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

February 6, 2024 5:30 PM

In attendance: The U507 Board held a face-to-face meeting at the Garret Restaurant in Campbell. In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Stu Goodgold, Doug Hong, Norman Marks, Judy Fisher, and Betsy Wagner. Lynn Bartz and Michael Fleisher arrived shortly before 6.

The **minutes** of the January meeting were approved as circulated.

The **financial report** was received. Karen answered Stu's question about one ACBL charge.

As **advance consent** items, the Board ratified an email vote approving a change in the start time of the Friday sectional events to be 10 AM. It was recognized that another motion had failed to remove Friday sectional events. The Board also ratified its vote at the January holiday party that nonmembers could play for free.

Regarding the **holiday party**, Mischel moved that director in the future be paid \$200 to direct the annual membership game and holiday party. After discussion, the motion was passed by a majority voice vote. There was discussion about how much food was left over at the holiday party. People were complimentary about the date of the event and the food provided. The Board unanimously thanked Stu for coordinating the party.

(Some discussion was inaudible in Ray's recording due to other sounds in the restaurant.)

Regarding the **spring sectional**, Norman reported that Greg Vance is directing, Will Watson is making the boards, and the flyer is coordinated. Mich reported that he spoke to Bruce Luttrell in Hawaii and informed him that the sectional coordinator position will now involve a team with Ray as the nominal coordinator for purposes of applying for sanctions. We discussed who will be acting as the partnership coordinator.

Mich asked for content for his monthly **President's letter**.

Regarding the **fall sectional**, we have the dates and a sanction and Lynn is working on the flyer. There are no plans for next spring yet. Stu proposed that the fall sectional be limited to two days as we will be following a busy month of sectionals. A majority was not in favor.

Mischel reported that the **membership total** is 497.

Ray reported that at a recent meeting of the **District 21 Board**, four officers, including Lynn (Treasurer) and Ray (Secretary), were re-elected to their one-year positions, and the new Vice-President is Jim Coke of Sacramento. Also, two representatives were elected to the Western Conference. The Monterey Regional was profitable. D21 has two new regional tournament planning chairs, including one from our unit, Anne Wilson.

Ray reported the requirements for a Unit holding a NonLife Master Regional. At least 12 tables should be set aside. D21 wants to maintain some control over the appearance of the flyer. D21 will ask for 10% of the table fees. Two units expressed interest in holding one.

As far as the **National Board**, Ray reported that a new disciplinary system was implemented effective February 1, 2024.

Regard a nonlife Master sectional, Ray was awaiting a reply to an inquiry to the ACBL to see if a **one-session Non Life Master sectional** was allowed. Betsy said Palo Alto had just started offering one-session sectionals. Norman proposed several votes to schedule such an event. There was much discussion. The first vote was to hold a sectional sometime in June. The second vote was whether to hold the event on a date other than Wednesday. That proposal failed. Stu said that according to Lynn Yokel, as an ACBL TD, she cannot run a limited sectional for less than ACBL TD fees. Norman volunteered to speak with Gabi Bowling and Lynn Yokel about whether they would like to have a NLM sectional concurrent with their regular Wednesday morning game. Ray reported that Lynn Yokel had texted that she was interested in holding such an event.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

March 12, 2024 5:30 PM

In attendance: The U507 Board held an online meeting on March 12, 2024. In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Board members Stu Goodgold, Norman Marks, Judy Fisher, Bruce Luttrell, Lynn Bartz, and Michael Fleisher, with guest Lynn Yokel. Doug Hong joined the meeting at 5:39. Betsy Wagner joined the meeting at 5:45.

The **minutes** of the February meeting were approved as distributed without change.

The **financial report** was accepted with thanks.

Regarding upcoming **sectionals**, Norman reported that the spring sectional is on track. Lynn recently sent out an email blast and another one is planned. Lynn Bartz asked why our sectional isn't on the District 21 ("D21") website. Ray, as a member of the D21 Communications Committee, said he would inquire of the Communications Chair.

Regarding our request to hold a single-session NonLife Master sectional, the D21 Executive Committee ("ExCom") has decided to leave the issue of authorizing such events to the full District Board at its June meeting. Ray, an ExCom member, explained that the ACBL had authorized such events a few times for U503, possibly because the single-session nature of the event wasn't clear from their applications, but the ACBL has subsequently indicated it is a decision for each District to make.

Regarding the fall sectional, Norman said that we have a sanction for the dates we sought and have made arrangements with U503 to use their site.

There was discussion of mutual publication of local sectionals. Lynn pointed out that our website already has a "tournament trail" listing upcoming local sectionals with links to their flyers.

According to the **In and Out report**, Mischel reported that our membership total is 501.

Regarding the ACBL's "**return to the fold**" program, Norman reported that he had spoken with the ACBL Executive Director, Bronia Jenkins. Each unit by algorithm is assigned nonrenewing members to contact. We report our efforts to contact them. We are not later informed by the ACBL whether the members renewed. The ACBL offers Units incentives in terms of a greater share of membership dues than 5% for making recruitment efforts. Stu said the program was initially designed differently, with separate incentives of 5% for bringing in new members and another 5% for retaining existing members. Norman encouraged Board members to reach out to lapsing members.

Stu no longer has news from the national Board. Ray had no news from any recent D21 Board meetings.

Mich asked Mischel to attend some Unit President's meetings in his place. He'll let her know of the schedule.

Regarding scheduling an **annual member meeting** and game, Norman was asked to contact the church about the dates of June 15 and July 27. Betsy is unavailable on the 15th and Mich may be unavailable on the 27th.

The meeting adjourned in the record time of 28 minutes.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

April 9, 2024 5:30 PM

In attendance: The U507 Board held an online meeting on April 9, 2024. In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Board members Stu Goodgold, Norman Marks, Judy Fisher, and Betsy Wagner, with guest Lynn Yokel. Lynn Bartz joined the meeting at 5:32.

The **minutes** for March were approved as circulated.

The **financial report** was accepted with appreciation.

Regarding the upcoming **spring sectional**, Norman said everything was being handled. Doug Hong has been talking to the DIC, Greg Vance, and Will Watson about having the boards ready. Lynn Bartz said she'd be sending another Pianola blast the upcoming weekend. Norman had talked to Marc Cervellino, and Marc committed that we will not lose money on the Friday events. If necessary, they would reduce their Friday charges. Trish has agreed to provide lunch all three days. Trish said she would provide pictures of the menu to Lynn Bartz.

Betsy volunteered to bring snacks to the sectional if the board authorized her. The Board authorized her. She isn't willing to be in charge of the coffee, and she didn't think Trish was willing either. Stu volunteered to make announcements at the sectional. Lynn volunteered to do coffee on the weekend and to ask Trish about Friday morning.

Regarding the **fall sectional**, we already have a sanction and a flyer and agreement with U503. Norman and Betsy suggested holding the afternoon session at 2:30.

Regarding the possibility of a **single-session nonlife Master sectional**, Ray reported that the ACBL had recently clarified its policy according to our regional Director Jackie Zayac. As of April 14, 2024, such an event must be at least two sessions. Betsy said there is a small pool of nonlife Masters attending tournaments. In Santa Cruz they recently had 11 tables on Saturday and 5 on Sunday. At Palo Alto's recent sectional, there were 5 tables of nonlife Masters.

There was discussion of the requirements for holding **limited sectionals** with higher masterpoint limits. Quoting from the ACBL's Codification, Ray said that a "limited" sectional is one limited to no more than 750 masterpoints. A "local" sectional is an open sectional with anticipated attendance under 25 tables. Local or limited sectionals may be staffed by Tournament Assistants or certified local directors, but local sectionals are run under the direction of a remote ACBL TD.

Regarding upcoming Board **elections**, Ray was asked to identify whose terms are expiring. Ray said that the terms of everyone except the four officers and Michael and Bruce were expiring. Stu said after 26 years, he would like to step down. Betsy, Judy,

Norman, and Lynn expressed interest in running again. Mich said he would speak to Doug and Milind Girkar. He'll also announce a vacancy in his monthly column.

Mischel reported that our total **membership** is now 503.

Regarding the ACBL's "**return to the fold**" program, Norman reported having a lengthy conversation with ACBL Executive Director Bronia Jenkins. The Unit can increase its share of the dues up to 2.5% for retaining members, another 2.5% for contacting members in danger of lapsing, and another 2.5% for recruiting new members. The ACBL has had problems tracking the Unit's contact efforts. The Unit is due its full share for contacting people though there will be a delay in payment. The recruitment target is based on pre-Covid numbers. Norman didn't learn what happened to the other 7.5% increases that were promised earlier for good unit behavior.

Norman further reported that the ACBL is pushing three new **outreach programs**, one called "Bridge Ambassador," another "Come Play with Us," and the third "Picklebridge."

Ray said there were no District developments. The District is authorizing more Units to hold NonLife Master Regionals.

Ray, as Chair of the Bylaws Committee, has deferred a meeting of the Bylaws Committee until the Board acts on the proposal by the Unit Status committee, of which Ray is also Chair, to adopt articles of incorporation, something which apparently hasn't been done in the Unit's 64-year existence. Ray presented a draft of **Articles of Incorporation** for the Board to approve and authorize filing with California's Secretary of State. If we want a bank account with the Unit's actual name on it, we need to file Articles. The cost of filing is \$30 for a nonprofit. Lynn explained that once we are incorporated, we will need to file annual statements of information at a cost of \$25.

Ray displayed the previously circulated draft Articles including some new changes proposed by Stu and Lynn B. During about 20 minutes of discussion, Ray revised the draft on the screen until a consensus was reached. He explained that item 6 is not from the Secretary of State's form, but it is included to establish our tax status. Lynn read from D21's amended articles of incorporation. A motion to authorize Ray to file the articles of incorporation as revised with the Secretary of State was unanimously approved.

Regarding our annual meeting and game, Norman reported that the church site isn't available in June, but July 27 is available, and that date was chosen. The schedule will be the same as usual, with a potluck meal before a game that will start around 1 PM.

Norman and Judy won't be available for a May 14 meeting. The Board generally favored meeting at the Garret.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Meeting

May 14, 2024 5:30 PM

In attendance: The U507 Board held a face-to-face meeting on May 14, 2024 at the Garret restaurant in Campbell. In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Board members Stu Goodgold, Bruce Luttrell, Michael Fleisher, Norman Marks, Judy Fisher, Betsy Wagner, and Lynn Bartz, with guest Lynn Yokel.

The **minutes** for April were approved as circulated.

Regarding candidates for Board positions, the Secretary reported that Doug Hong was not interested in continuing on the Board. Stu Goodgold announced that he has reconsidered and would like to continue serving. Mich reported that he has drafted Milind Girkar to serve on the Board, though he may be in India for some of our meetings. Because there are as many candidates as there are positions, no ballots will be provided or counted.

The monthly **financial report** was accepted with appreciation. Karen explained the nature of one payment from the ACBL as being table fees. Ray had a question about a stop payment refund. Karen explained that it seemed to be the result of a bank error.

Norman wasn't present to report on the recent sectional.

Stu reported that the ACBL recently decided that **non-life master sectionals** must be at least two sessions.

Stu reported that July 27 is the only available date at the church for our **membership meeting and game**. There was a lot of discussion about holding the game earlier in the day to avoid summer weather, as there is no air-conditioning in the church gym. There was also discussion about what food the Unit should provide, whether the members should be invited to bring potluck contributions, and whether we should look into different locations.

There was a seconded motion to move the startup time to 9:30 am. The Secretary reported the motion, but the restaurant was too loud for others to hear him. Lynn restated the motion. The motion failed, with four in favor and six against.

There was a seconded motion to eliminate the potluck and have the meal catered. An amendment was proposed that the unit would provide the main dishes, with pot luck desserts. (At least I think that was the amendment. Every time the amendment was stated, possibly four times, children were screaming over the speaker in the recording.) In any event, the amendment failed. The original motion also failed.

Mischel proposed that we ask the members at the meeting if they like potlucks. Mich said he would put the question on the agenda of the membership meeting.

Mischel reported that our **unit membership** is up to 507 members.

Ray reported that the California Secretary of State (“SoS”) had rejected his first attempt to **file articles of incorporation** for the unit using an online form. He planned to resubmit it in the form approved by the Board, with two changes suggested by the SoS.

Regarding the **spring sectional**, Mischel had questions about Unit 503’s invoice. Ray and Stu explained to her that Palo Alto charges \$16 a table for rent but also caps the total as \$800 a day if we have more tables than that. The cleaning fees showed cleaning on Thursday when we weren’t there, but Karen clarified that the charge should have been for Friday night, which had no charge. The Unit made about \$2,200.

Ray explained that there are two available **spring sectional** dates in May 2025. The Board was opposed to both dates, pointing out that one immediately preceded the Sacramento regional and the other was on Father’s Day. Ray was asked to see if earlier dates are available from the D21 tournament coordinator.

Bruce Luttrell explained the difficulties he had dealing boards two sectionals prior. Ray mentioned that most tournament coordinators do not take on that job.

Ray opposed the next meeting being in person due to the loudness of the venue. Mich said that the next meeting would be online.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

June 11, 2024 5:30 PM

In attendance: In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Board members Stu Goodgold, Lynn Bartz, and Judy Fisher, with Board nominee Milind Girkar. Betsy Wagner joined around 5:55. Lynn departed around 6:10.

The **minutes** for May were approved as circulated. Ray mentioned, as stated in the minutes, that due to a screaming child near the meeting in a restaurant, it was impossible to hear the wording of a motion that ultimately failed, even though the motion was restated more than once.

Regarding the **treasurer's report**, in Karen's absence, Ray questioned a delayed payment from the last sectional apparently attributable to the director's delay in submitting the paperwork. The report was accepted.

The Board **ratified** an email vote to hold the spring 2025 sectional on March 21 through 23. Ray reported that he had applied for a sanction through Tourney Trax weeks earlier and hadn't seen a reply yet. Milind pointed out that those dates were during the spring NABC. Ray explained that the Board was aware of that and had not had any other viable options.

The Board **ratified** that there was no need for Board elections because there are exactly as many candidates as open positions. Mich welcomed Milind aboard.

Regarding **upcoming sectionals**, Ray reported that there was an approved sanction for the fall sectional. Stu asking about the starting times, and Ray and Lynn pointed out that a flyer had already been prepared and approved. Lynn pointed out the flyer was on the ACBL website and the playing times are 10 AM and 3 PM. Ray quoted from the minutes of April 9: "Regarding the fall sectional, we already have a sanction and a flyer and agreement with U503. Norman and Betsy suggested holding the afternoon session at 2:30." There was no motion made on the 9th to change the flyer. There was subsequent email discussion of the topic initiated by Norman's request on April 30, but there was no email vote to change the afternoon start time. Betsy reiterated that some people had complained about a 3 PM start time.

Betsy moved to change the **afternoon start time** for the spring sectional to 2:30. Ray moved that the motion be tabled until more Board members are in attendance. There was no second to tabling the motion. Mischel seconded Betsy's motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 2. Mich said he'd schedule another vote at the next meeting.

Regarding the **membership game**, Betsy asked to reconsider the start time to start at 10. Stu pointed out that such a request had been rejected at the last meeting. Mischel pointed out how hot the club was the previous week and that Lynn Bartz had ordered four fans. Betsy moved to reconsider the start time. Ray said he wouldn't attend a

game with a 9:30 AM setup. The motion to reconsider wasn't seconded. Many other start times were discussed.

Mich said he has Ace of Clubs certificates. Mischel said she'd order the mini-McKenney medallions. Ray said he'd send out the lists of winners if he hadn't already. Stu mentioned that we need to promote the membership game via blasts. Mich said he would include it in his monthly column. Lynn was off-screen for this discussion of sending out blasts.

An issue arose whether the limited section of the membership game should be offered for sign-ups by players under 750. There was a consensus that the section should be for under 500.

Mischel reported that the **membership total** is 501. Betsy asked for the names of the new members. She was told that the names are in the In-and-Out reports that Ray distributes every month. The new members were named.

Ray mentioned a **District 21 Board meeting** was scheduled for the following evening. He reviewed several topics for discussion, including needing recommendations for charities in the next few months.

Ray as **Unit Status Chair** mentioned that the Secretary of State had approved of the Unit's new Articles of Incorporation. He will be filing a Statement of Information with the State in 90 days. Ray said it is now time to hold a **Bylaws Committee** meeting. Mich announced that he was going to be out of the country during the next couple of weeks.

As to new business, Mich turned the gavel over to Mischel and proposed a resolution thanking Doug Hong for his years of service to the Unit. There was unanimous consent.

Mich resumed the position of the Chair. Mischel proposed **rescheduling** the next Board meeting because she and Karen would be unavailable on July 9. That is also true of Judy and Betsy. After discussing various options, the meeting was rescheduled to the 16th. Milind said he would be in Toronto then.

Ray moved that the Unit **reimburse** Lynn Bartz for purchasing four commercial-grade fans for the club game. In Lynn's absence, Mich determined there was still a quorum. Betsy moved that the Unit pay the normal and reasonable cost of four fans. Mischel seconded the motion. Ray displayed an Amazon picture of the fan and its cost of \$130. The motion passed 5-1.

The meeting was adjourned until July 16.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger