

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

July 16, 2024 5:30 PM

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, Lynn Bartz, Judy Fisher, Bruce Luttrell, Betsy Wagner, Norman Marks, and Michael Fleisher. Milind Girkar, being at the Toronto NABC, appeared after the meeting ended. Michael left the meeting at 5:55. Mischel left the meeting at 6:00.

The first order of business was to **elect Board Officers** for the year. President Mich Ravera, Secretary Ray Yuenger, and Treasurer Karen O'Connell were all willing to continue in their positions. With no opponents, they were elected by the Board by unanimous consent. Stu Goodgold indicated interest in serving as Vice-President and Mischel Postas declined nomination. Stu was elected by unanimous consent.

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

The **financial report** was received. One large payment was noted as the proceeds of the recent sectional.

The Board agreed to ratify its email vote to **relocate the membership game** on July 27 to Room M50 at the Campbell Community Center.

Ray noted that the previously approved May minutes included an error in labeling a live meeting as a Zoom meeting and he asked to **correct the May minutes**. Stu asked about the amendability of a previously approved item. Ray explained that Robert's Rules, to which we aren't subject, does allow for majority approval of a motion to amend a previously approved item. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Regarding the upcoming **annual meeting and membership game**, Stu intends to visit the room to see how many bridge tables it will accommodate. Judy asked about how her signup could be deleted. People are still looking to accommodate a player's request for a partner. There was a consensus that coffee not be provided. Stu had given different Board members assignments to prepare for the game. Norman volunteered to bring water. Ray said he would send Mischel the Ace of Clubs winners. Lynn said she had spare large envelopes for mailing medallions and would bring them to Mischel at tomorrow's game. Karen said she will bring the utensils left over from the holiday party. Mich said he also has some utensils. Karen said she and Mischel will provide the paper goods. Gabi will be the director. Ray said he'll give Mich a list of all the Ace of Clubs and mini-McKenney winners.

Karen said she'll handle the food order. Stu proposed ordering only one barbecue item. Karen will try to order the right amount of food and will order two kinds of meat.

Regarding **sectionals**, Norman said the next two sectionals seem set. There has been no progress on arranging a limited sectional. Norman asked when the second session was scheduled for the fall sectional. Ray said that the published flyer says 3 PM. There

was some confusion about whether the Board had voted at the last meeting to change the start time to 2:30 for the spring or also the fall. The topic will be addressed in continuing business.

Ray reported that we might need to change the dates of the **spring sectional** because the landlord will be holding an event on the weekend we have secured. Marc Cervellino told Ray that if that's the case, U503 will give U507 its sanction for the following weekend.

Mischel reported on members' in and out status. Our **total membership** is 495. Betsy said that one of our new members is one of her students.

Norman discussed the **5-5-5 report** that he circulated by email and the nature of the three activities for which a unit can earn a bigger share of membership dues. Stu pointed out that it would actually work to a unit's benefit to tell members not to renew their ACBL memberships until they fall into the "at-risk" category. One way to earn credit is simply contacting members listed by the ACBL as at risk. Norman said we can do better at recruitment. Ray noted that the at risk link wasn't in Norman's email. Norman said he would send the link out.

Betsy and Stu each described **social bridge groups** they are aware of. Lynn said that she is working with a small group of players weekly at her house. She has also applied to teach bridge at the Campbell Community Center.

Norman mentioned that we are still losing people to U503. Judy noted that they offer so much more than we do. Norman suggested that we should get a second game going. Betsy pointed out that San Jose has a reputation for being unfriendly. Betsy didn't want to name names, but Norman said we should learn the names and talk to the Wednesday directors about the situation. Judy said that it's up to the directors to set the tone of the game, including telling players not to issue rulings at the game. Mich said that when he was directing, a player told him not to call the round. Judy said that she would contact the directors about the issue.

Stu mentioned that the **ACBL Board** was imminently deciding that the Charity Foundation will become a separate organization.

Ray said that **District 21** is soliciting charity nominations from units.

For the Unit status committee, Ray noted that U507 had actually filed articles of incorporation with the California Secretary of State so that U507 could notify the IRS of a name change, so that U507 could open a bank account with an IRS-recognized name. So more work remains to be done.

Ray has yet to schedule a **Bylaws Committee** meeting.

As **continuing business**, the Board was asked to reconsider the start time for the second sessions of the spring sectional, which passed at the last meeting without many members voting. Norman suggested changing the start time for the fall as well, even

though the flyer has been published on the ACBL website. Betsy restated the position that a number of people have complained about the 3 PM start. Lynn suggested surveying the members. Mich suggested that a Board member could poll people at the fall sectional. Norman moved that the players be polled at the upcoming membership game. Mich seconded the motion.

Before leaving the meeting, Michael had mentioned that if we hadn't found another local site for the membership game, it should have been held at the Palo Alto club. Ray restated his request as continuing business. Norman said he and Michael are diametrically opposed on this topic. Lynn said she views the playing site as an IFES site. It doesn't threaten our Unit to have events outside the Unit. Stu said that Mountain View is geographically in U503. Ray asked if this means U507 should stop holding sectionals in the Palo Alto Bridge Center. Norman said there is no good alternative to holding sectionals there. No motion was made.

Mich asked that people should tell him soon if they wanted information included in his **next Presidential message**. Ray asked if the Board had any advice for Mich about congratulating non-member partners of U507 players. There was no advice. Mich said that Ray may proofread his column as he sees fit.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger