

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

August 13, 2024 5:30 PM

In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Stu Goodgold, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Board members Mischel Postas, Lynn Bartz, Milind Girkar, Judy Fisher, Norman Marks, Michael Fleisher, and guest Lynn Yokel. Betsy Wagner arrived at 5:36.

The **July minutes** were approved as circulated.

Regarding the **financial report**, Milind had asked a question by email and Karen had responded by email and did not want to elaborate. Karen's email had solicited comments by other Board members. In the future, Karen may make a change that Norman had recommended to her privately.

An **advance consent** item was to ratify the email vote increasing the pay for directing the unit membership game to \$250. Stu noted that the Board just recently voted to increase the director's pay to \$200. Lynn Y added that the club directors make \$200 per game. Stu said he didn't recall that the email motion was for a permanent change. Ray read back the email motion, noting it wasn't limited to the membership game only.

Regarding **sectionals**, Norman said there was no news. Ray reported that we have to reschedule the spring sectional because the landlord needs the facility on our scheduled weekend. Mark Cervellino on behalf of U503 and U507 had written the D21 tournament coordinator saying U503 is willing to cede the following weekend for U507's sectional. Ray will contact the coordinator to see if a new sanction application is necessary.

Mischel reported on **membership changes**, resulting in a membership of 493.

Ray reported that at a recent meeting of the **District 21 Board**, there was some preliminary discussion about reorganizing the 21 Units in the District into five areas for purposes of electing directors to a smaller D21 Board. Ray reminded people that D21 has been soliciting charity nominations. Norman mentioned Second Harvest. Ray said it was already on the list.

From the **Unit status committee**, Ray said he hadn't yet contacted the IRs about submitting a name change. No **Bylaws committee** meeting has been scheduled yet.

There was discussion of the recent **membership meeting** and game and whether the mirrors in the new room were a problem. Stu said the Roosevelt room is easier to set up and take down. Mischel said the Roosevelt access is sometimes impeded. Roosevelt costs \$50 more than M-50. Access to restrooms was discussed. Everyone agreed and **the Board ordered** that future advertising should say whether or not we are providing coffee.

Regarding **5/5/5 recruitment**, Norman said there was nothing new. Mischel mentioned that Gabi had invited three tables of beginners to play in the club game the next day at no charge and Gabi is making name tags and special food for them. Mischel suggested that the Unit help her financially. Judy said that she had organized the beginner game and has other people interested in doing it, and Betsy and Anne W had helped organize it and find people. Gabi intends to charge half-price after the first game. Betsy said Gabi seems happy to do it without financial assistance.

Lynn Bartz described her efforts in setting up a **shuffle and deal class** at the Campbell Community Center or another community center. Insurance for two years is required by the Community Center. Betsy suggested that the Unit should pay the insurance.

Michael brought up that if we want new people at the club, we need to work on players not misbehaving in the open game. Ray mentioned that the Unit used to have an Intermediate-Novice liaison. New unit members were sent free play certificates. The Unit reimbursed directors who turned them in. Lynn Y confirmed that the directors pay sanction fees for each table, but she said the fees are small and not of concern.

Milind asked if **online recruitment** had been attempted. Ray said Lynn Y used to run all kinds of online games at the beginning of the pandemic, including limited games. Stu said that generally it has not proved successful. Betsy mentioned that the ACBL has a series of beginner games. Ray said the ACBL has a ClubHouse on BBO for beginning players.

There was a proposal to send new members **free play certificates**. Lynn B said free plays aren't consequential if players come to the open game. Lynn Y said we should focus on free plays to participants in a 0-20 game. Judy said 20 is too high. Lynn Y said 0-5 is better. Ray displayed the old free play certificate and crashed out of the Zoom meeting to return. Milind mentioned that under 5 masterpoints can play online for free. Betsy suggested at least three free play certificates. Mich said he assumed the limited game might be 0-50 or even 0-500. Lynn Yokel said it is going to be a 0-20 game. Lynn B volunteered to modify the form Ray had displayed and bring some to tomorrow's game. Ray moved that all the 0-20 players tomorrow receive free play certificates for future games, and the Unit will reimburse the directors when they turn in the certificates. It was seconded. Norman suggested that free plays also be offered to returning players. Lynn Y said the charge is likely to be \$5. Betsy asked about handing out more than one certificate. **The motion as seconded passed unanimously.**

Norman asked what will happen going forward. Judy said the future still needs to be arranged with the players. Betsy moved to authorize the directors to issue free plays in the upcoming weeks. Ray mentioned from the latest roster that U507 has 77 players under 5 masterpoints and 118 under 20. Norman moved to authorize the directors to use their discretion as to who receives free play certificates. Mich restated Betsy's motion as authorizing the directors to issue free play certificates to players in the limited game for the next month. Ray asked if the same player could get a certificate every

week. The response was that a new player will only receive one certificate. Mich added to the pending motion that only first time players in the limited game are eligible. In chat, Ray restated the motion to be: "Each first time player in the limited section may be issued a free play certificate by the Wednesday directors." Mich added that this will apply until the next Board meeting. The motion was seconded. **The motion as amended passed unanimously.**

Mich reported that when he asked for an advisory vote at the membership meeting about the **start time for the second session** of our sectionals about two-thirds of the members favored 2:30 over 3:00 PM. Norman moved that the change be implemented beginning with the fall sectional. Mischel seconded the motion. There were six votes in favor and two opposed, so **the motion passed**. Lynn B said she'd change the flyer accordingly.

As to **new business**, Norman moved that the Unit buy the Board members **name tags** and that the Board require its members to wear the name tags during the Wednesday games. Betsy mentioned that U524 buys each new member a name with U524 on it and maybe U507 should do the same and include new members in the past year. Mich asked how much a unit gets from membership dues. Stu said it is between \$2.50 and \$17.00. Mich had researched the tags at the 7NT site and found prices from \$4 to \$11 and \$5 for shipping. Ray said that as D21 Secretary he purchases officer name tags for \$11. Mischel asked if everyone would wear one. Ray said he sometimes wears one of his name tags and sometimes doesn't. Lynn B said she doesn't need a new badge and will wear her D21 tag. Ray asked if the idea wasn't to identify Board members as Board members and the response was "no." Stu moved to **table the motion** due to the lateness of the discussion. The motion to table was seconded and approved.

Regarding a possible **new playing site**, Mischel reported that she and Ray and Gabi (and Karen separately) had viewed a possible site at the West Coast Presbyterian church. It has some desirable features, like air conditioning and plenty of parking, but due to a regular yoga class, the game would have to start at noon. Gabi intends to ask the players at tomorrow's game if they would be willing to start an hour later. Gabi had proposed what rent she could afford and the terms are subject to negotiation. Betsy mentioned that she and Judy are teaching at 3 pm, so a later game won't work for them.

Norman mentioned he has also found a possible site, the United Methodist Church in Japantown, but he doesn't know if it's available yet.

There was agreement that the **next meeting** will be face-to-face on September 10 at the Garret Station.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger