

Minutes of Regular Zoom Meeting of ACBL Unit 507 Board

October 8, 2024 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, Board members Mischel Postas, Lynn Bartz, Judy Fisher, Norman Marks, Michael Fleisher, and Milind Girkar.

The **minutes** were approved as circulated after making four deletions proposed by Norman, Stu, Michael Fleisher, and Ray.

The **financial report** was received without questions.

Regarding the **fall sectional**, Norman said we are in good shape. Boards, caddying, and lunch have been arranged. Ray said he brought flyers to the Santa Clara regional. There were no volunteers to handle partnerships for Friday and Saturday.

Regarding the **spring sectional**, we have approved dates. Ray explained that we exchanged dates with Palo Alto because the landlord is using the facility on one of our original dates. Lynn said she is still working on the spring flyer and she needed the dates. She said she'd circulate a draft to the Board.

Mischel announced that our **Unit membership** is now 496. Bob Ritz's passing was noted. Ray said the Board has no one sending condolences like we used to have.

Norman noted that Ray had updated the **website's** descriptions of Board members.

Norman proposed duties for a **membership chair** including greeting new members and sending sympathy cards. Michael seconded the motion. Mischel said she is not willing to greet new members. Lynn said this person should also notify the ACBL of deaths. Ray pointed out that the ACBL's Unit President's handbook includes a description of the position of membership chair. Ray moved to table the motion until next month when we can decide whether to adopt the ACBL's description of a membership chair's duties. The motion was seconded and it passed.

Mich said that he routinely greets new members in his monthly column, but as new members they may not be receiving his column right away. Milind confirmed that was the case as to members he'd recruited.

Mich said he'd send greetings to our four new members. Mischel said she'd send sympathy cards for Bob, Pat Hannah, and Betty DePaolo.

Norman talked about the **555 program**. He had spoken with Bronia Jenkins again. She confirmed that the numbers reported in Karen's financial reports are accurate. We should be paid within the week. We are up in recruiting but down in retention. Across the ACBL, the new version of the program is paying units less than the old version. The ACBL is studying the situation. The ACBL was withholding payments under \$1,000 and

that amount has dropped to \$250. We are getting 11% and could go to 15% with better recruiting, which includes retention. We will probably never get to 15.

No one recognized the names that Mich had circulated involving temporary or guest memberships.

From **District 21**, Ray mentioned that five charities had been recommended to the ACBL Charity Foundation. A D21 newsletter will be coming out soon. There have been discussions about how to downsize the District Board of Directors. The D21 Bylaws Committee sent out a survey to obtain guidance. Ray said if we downsize, some of the 21 units won't have representatives. There have been some survey responses already, while other Board members wanted the opportunity to speak with their unit boards. One proposal is to group 21 units into five areas.

Mich asked for nominations for **District Goodwill awards**.

Lynn reported that the Hyatt Hotel forgave D21 a \$4,000 penalty for its shortfall on its room commitment because D21 entered a contract for 2025 by the end of September. Ray said that D21 had fallen about eight rooms short. Ray said that the room commitment for 2025 is nine fewer rooms. The hotel also forgave a shortfall last year.

Stu mentioned that at the **national level**, GNT and NAP now have congruent flights.

Ray reported status quo regarding the **Bylaws Committee**. The Unit's articles of incorporation were filed and approved.

Mich solicited information for his **monthly column**.

Regarding a **holiday party**, it has worked out for us to hold it early and late. Mischel proposed January 18. It was seconded. The motion was approved. Milind pointed out a conflict with the San Francisco sectional. Mischel proposed January 25. Norman will contact the church. We agreed to hold it at the usual times.

For the next meeting, the 12th was a problem for three members. We agreed to hold it on the 5th, election night.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger