

Minutes of Regular Zoom Meeting of ACBL Unit 507 Board

November 5, 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, and guest Lynn Yokel. Betsy Wagner arrived at 5:34.

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

The **financial report** was received with corrections and an update to the sectional report circulated shortly before the meeting. Karen explained that the preparation of the report was delayed because she had COVID. Our profit on the sectional was \$981. Lynn Bartz and Ray Yuenger both printed flyers at home and declined reimbursement. Norman asked the Board to thank Karen for her efforts while sick and Mich so ordered.

Michael Fleisher paid Will Watson \$300 on behalf of U507 for **making the boards** for the sectional. Will said the cost was a little less. Norman explained that he usually pays Will a little over his rates as thanks.

There were three **consent items**. The first was the vote to hold the holiday party at the church on January 18 opposite the San Francisco sectional. Mich said there were six in favor and three opposed with three abstentions. Mischel pointed out that the church has no heating and it has been freezing on Wednesday mornings. Mischel suggested that we should look for an alternative. Norman said that the church is getting bids for heating and he expects it will be heated by the holiday party. Mich said that the discussion was out of order. Ray agreed the email vote was as reported. Mich's tabulation of the vote will be incorporated in the minutes as though read at the meeting.

The second consent item involved Stu chairing the meeting so Mich could ask for unanimous consent to include his **vote tabulations** sheet into the minutes as though it had been read. It was unopposed.

The third consent item was approval of the **spring sectional flyer**. Michael said that he received a question about lunch being available at our recent fall sectional. He didn't know and he called Ray who didn't know. At the meeting Ray said that the flyer on our website said lunch will be provided. Norman said that the plan with Trish is to have lunch available for the spring sectional. Lynn said the flyer will say so.

The **spring sectional** was the next topic. Stu mentioned that we need to have the flyers available at the Monterey Regional. Lynn Yokel said she'd bring copies to the regional if someone provides them to her.

Regarding the recent **fall sectional**, Stu mentioned that attendance was down about 20%. He suggested that a reason was fatigue because our sectional was the third of three consecutive sectionals in the same location. Mischel said there wasn't enough promotion. Lynn said she forgot. Michael pointed out it's hard to survey people who didn't attend to learn their reasons. Responding to Mich's question, Ray said one can't tell from the D21 website what the schedule is for other sectionals near our spring sectional. Norman pointed out that U503 has told us that they will reduce their variable costs so we won't lose money renting their club.

Milind pointed out that on the ACBL website, which is linked on the D21 website, there are more sectionals listed in April. Norman suggested we need to work with Marc Cervellino to make sure U503 publicizes our sectionals at their location.

Mischel reported that U507 now has **501 members**. Regarding retention and recruitment, Norman explained that we have no new at-risk members, suggesting that everyone has renewed their memberships on time. In January we'll learn what the resulting payments will be.

From **District 21**, D21 Secretary Ray said that a D21 newsletter had recently been sent out. A 2025 budget meeting is scheduled for November 20. Ray mentioned that Mich had distributed a color-coded proposal for organizing D21 for purposes of electing board members into five areas. Mich noted that U503 and U507 are in different areas. Ray explained that one goal of the area groupings was to have roughly equal memberships in each area, and combining our units would overbalance one area. Ray said that reorganizing D21 will be a lengthy process, so immediate feedback from Board members isn't necessary. Stu asked for a straw poll about the reorganization of the D21 Board, but his request wasn't seconded.

From the ACBL, Mich noted that one big change was to the **Code of Disciplinary Regulations** as Ray had explained in an article on the BridgeWinners website.

Also from **D21**, D21 Treasurer Lynn Bartz reported that the latest Sparks/Reno regional, which is usually about a break-even event for D21, made about \$8,000. Attendance was up 25% from Sparks two years ago and up 60% from the Table Mountain Regional. The Reno Unit did a lot to encourage local attendance. Stu pointed out that some attendance was also blown into Sparks by a hurricane that halted the concurrent Tampa, Florida regional.

Regarding the **Bylaws Committee**, Ray reported that there was a very productive meeting where changes were proposed to the first half of the Bylaws. Ray has to write up the meeting notes on proposed changes, and with one more meeting, the Committee might have some proposals ready for the Board.

Karen proposed that Norman be thanked for his work on the fall sectional and without objection it was so ordered.

Regarding the **holiday party**, Mich said he'd mention it in three columns before it occurs.

Ray moved to remove from the table the discussion of the job description of the **Membership chair**. The motion passed. Mich had distributed a more current pamphlet ACBL Membership Chair handbook. Ray said the question is whether U507 wants to adopt the ACBL's job description or make up our own. Norman said the question is whether we can find a volunteer for the position, and if we can, that person should propose their own duties. There were no volunteers. Mich said he'd look for a volunteer.

As to contents for Mich's **monthly column**, Norman proposed the success of the newcomer game on Wednesday mornings thanks to Betsy and Judy. Lynn Bartz said we should consider newcomer games at our sectional. Norman also proposed mentioned the successes in the Youth NABC.

For **new business**, Judy proposed that the Unit should acquire a public address system so the Wednesday directors don't have to shout to be heard. Mich had researched it and found one for \$54. His wife uses one. Judy and Mich described it being very portable. Ray asked if the directors wanted one. Judy said that Gabi was interested. Lynn Y said she supported what Gabi wanted. Mich described the features. Norman said he uses such things all the time and it's easy to forget you have it. Lynn B volunteered to bring one to the club. Mischel moved to purchase one. The motion passed without objection.

The next meeting was scheduled for December 10, 2024. Lynn B said she won't be available. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Ray Yuenger

