

Minutes of Regular Zoom Meeting of ACBL Unit 507 Board

December 10, 2024 5:30 PM

In attendance at the virtual meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Stu Goodgold, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Board members Mischel Postas, Michael Fleisher, and Milind Girkar. Lynn Bartz did not attend from England. Norman Marks did not attend from Singapore.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as circulated with one change. Mich pointed out that the minutes did not include the tabulations of a vote regarding the holiday party, though a consent item added the tabulation to the minutes as though read. Ray said he would include the tabulation in the official minutes.

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

Regarding the **spring sectional**, Ray was surprised to learn from a player's inquiry that the flyer did not appear on the ACBL tournament website. Ray recalled that the flyer was approved at the last Board meeting with one change to be made by Lynn Bartz. Lynn made the change and sent the flyer to Ray, who sent it to the ACBL during the recent NABC, but it hadn't been posted on the ACBL website the last he had checked. Mich mentioned there were plans to bring flyers to the Monterey regional. Ray didn't know if Lynn had sent out a Pianola announcement about the spring sectional yet.

Ray said he was unaware of any planning for the **fall sectional** yet. Mich said it had not been on the agenda.

Mischel reported that the current U507 **membership total** is 500.

Ray reported that **District 21** held a recent budget meeting and passed its budgets for 2025. Of most interest to U507 is probably that D21 is now providing free access to **Pianola Marketing Services** to all Units in D21, which allows Units to publicize their sectionals and other special events. While the immediate purchase of Pianola credits was not part of the D21 2025 budget, the D21 Executive Committee after the budget meeting voted to authorize the purchase so Units could begin promoting sectionals right away. Ray said he'd talk to Lynn Bartz about whether this new service would eliminate the need for U507 to have its own contract with Pianola, for which we are paying a semiannual fee. Karen confirmed that U507 is no longer sharing the cost of Pianola with the club game directors. Ray explained the two methods available for broadcasting messages in Marketing Services. Units will control who has the access code to Marketing Services.

Ray also mentioned that the new service allows for formatting messages in Rich Text Format, which could solve the problems in some of our blasts about the hyperlinks for sign-ups not working. Mich said that he might need to compose his monthly messages in RTF.

Regarding the **Unit Status committee**, Ray said there is nothing more for the committee to do. We need to get D21 to correctly identify U507 in its tax filing on the Unit's behalf to the IRS. Regarding the **Bylaws Committee**, Ray still needs to write up the minutes of the last meeting before there is a next committee meeting.

Regarding the January 18 **holiday party**, Stu announced that the church site now has heat. Mischel has volunteered to take over from Karen in arranging for the food for the holiday party. Mischel wants to talk to Buca di Beppo. Stu pointed out that means no potluck as we usually have done. Mischel pointed out that Unit 503 is having a holiday party where everyone is invited and there is no charge.

Mich suggested that people could bring desserts. There was discussion about who wanted another potluck and who on the board would be attending. It sounded like almost everyone present will be attending. Michael does not like the venue selection. Karen pointed out that contributions to the last potluck were uninspired.

Mischel said the cost could be \$21 per person. She will get a quote and tell Mich in time for his monthly column.

Stu asked whether we should charge table fees if we are having the meal catered. After discussion, there was a consensus that the format will be catered with people bringing drinks and desserts and table fees of \$10 will be charged. That was the order of the Board.

Stu will contact Will about directing.

Stu said we need to send out a blast promoting the party. Ray said Lynn would be back from a trip on Saturday.

No potential **membership chair** has been identified.

Mich asked for suggestions for his **monthly column**. Ray said to mention Michael Bodell.

As **new business**, Stu described a new ACBL program to raise money for hurricane relief in the southeast called Gold for Good. For the next two weeks, if you sign up and pay \$30, you can win gold by playing in club games.

The meeting was adjourned after 35 minutes with the next meeting scheduled for January 14, 2025.

Submitted by

Ray Yuenger