

Minutes of Regular Zoom Meeting of ACBL Unit 507 Board

October 14, 2025 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, and Board members Joanne Cornbleet, Milind Girkar, Linda Rocha, Judy Fisher, Betsy Wagner, and Lynn Bartz, and Lynn Yokel as guest of the board. Mischel Postas was reported to be dealing with car trouble.

The **minutes** of the September meeting that had been circulated were deemed approved. Ray reported that he had a correction for the minutes of the August meeting, which were mistakenly identified as the September minutes. This correction was approved without objection.

The **treasurer's report**, which included an update about the latest sectional, was accepted with thanks. U503 reduced its normal charges so that U507 did not lose money despite the low turnout. Ray asked about what break we received on Friday. It was listed as \$145. There was no further specification to Karen from Marc Cervillino. Ray's question was answered. Marc recommended to Karen we don't hold Friday sessions in the future, which we will discuss later on the agenda.

A consent item was presented by Joanne Cornbleet on behalf of Ken Imboden to purchase 28 decks of **four-color jumbo index cards** for sight-impaired players. There was agreement that we should get two sample decks at a cost of \$21 for sight-impaired players to test before buying more decks. Lynn Yokel said they won't work with our dealing machine, but she doesn't mind making them by hand.

The sectional debrief topic was postponed to discuss **holiday party planning**. Stu mentioned that we have a director. A blast needs to be sent out. Lynn Bartz said it was on the website, but Stu doesn't think people look at the website. Mich said he would mention it in his upcoming monthly newsletter. Ray pointed out the table fee was wrong on the website. He corrected it during the meeting.

There was a discussion about who is getting notice of the holiday party. Lynn B said U507 members. Ray said that was the vote at last month's meeting. Lynn B pointed out that we could send notice through our regular Pianola database and not Marketing Solutions and she could include the usual visitors to our games. U503 will learn about it from Mich's column. We don't plan to turn away people from other Units. Ray said he hadn't obtained a sanction yet, but they arrive quickly.

Lynn Yokel said she is using **Unit championships** for club games. There was some confusion about whether the Unit promised to pay the extra cost of those sanctions for all games or just some. She mentioned the extra costs involved, \$5 a table, in the Instant Matchpoint games due to the booklets. Betsy moved that the Unit pay the extra costs for that game. Karen seconded it. The motion was approved without opposition.

Joanne reported on the total **membership** being 484 and the progress of the **5-5-5** program. The club had a volunteer appreciation game. The club owners will consider organizing birthday games on their own. She had also presented a survey of limited

masterpoint players at the last meeting. She mentioned she is working on a introductory booklet for new members with low masterpoints.

Stu reported that he attended a Unit Presidents' meeting this morning, and he learned that **guest memberships** no longer expire, but you cannot earn more than 20 masterpoints as a guest member. In 2026 only full members can play in nationals and regionals.

Milind asked Joanne to send out a draft of her new member booklet and she said she'd do so.

Mich pointed out that we currently have no organized way of **answering bridge questions** by newcomers and intermediates. In the past we had a local Google group for discussing bridge. Joanne said that any such group needs to be monitored. Mich suggested that could be a feature of the website. Lynn B questioned using the website and who would be answered the questions. Joanne suggested there could be an Ask the Teacher program. Lynn said there might be more than one answer to a question. Stu suggested that perhaps the mentor program could be extended. Betsy thought it appropriate to ask a particular teacher, but not to publish the discussion.

Linda said she had to leave soon and wanted to discuss **the sectional**. She said that the U503 site was appropriate and that we received a lot of support from U503 members. In a debrief with her, Marc encouraged us to hold Friday sessions, saying we wouldn't lose money. Linda also said the welcoming comments by Stu and Mich were appreciated. The caddy also did a good job. As far as the low attendance, many people said they weren't aware of it. There were not many U507 members playing. U503 said it was on their message board. We did put out flyers. Maybe we need more email blasts. Linda bought too many snacks expecting more people. Ray also had a problem getting a corrected flyer with a working partnership link onto the ACBL website. Stu thought the caddy needed more training. Stu questioned if we needed a caddy for such a low turnout. There was some discussion about how to conduct a team event without a caddy.

Joanne suggested that Linda, as sectional coordinator, should be in charge of the contents and timing of the publicity.

Betsy said the low attendance was due to the timing of the event, which we had little control over. Marketing and emails wouldn't have changed it. Mich said if we have to hold a sectional right before a regional, it should be a local regional.

Milind suggested polling Unit members to see why they didn't attend. Ray said he would ask the TDs of the sectionals for lists of people who played in the spring and not in the fall.

Stu said that Linda should be chairing a committee of Board members to help the sectional. Linda said that she didn't get volunteers except for her friends. Stu said Linda did a great job given the limited time she had and others agreed. Linda appreciated the encouragement and said she had to leave at 6:34.

Stu wanted to continue the discussion. He recommended eliminating Friday events. Betsy seconded the motion. Judy wanted to consult with the tournament chair.

Joanne suggested we could have a one-day I/N sectional.

Ray said we should discuss the entire schedule, not just the Friday events. He questioned if the 49er game took place and it didn't. Betsy pointed out that if we don't hold Friday events, the Palo Alto club will still hold a game on Friday. Mich suggested we might consider having it in a different location. Stu pointed out that holding a two-day sectional will require less work. The motion to eliminate Friday session passed with five votes in favor and none opposed.

Lynn agreed to prepare flyers for the next two sectionals. Joanne proposed trying a 99er game and Judy agreed.

There was a discussion about what we should charge, what the regionals are charging and what U503 may be charging for its sectionals. There was agreement to charge the same as U503. Joanne suggested a lower price for the 99ers.

Stu suggested holding one 99er event with the fees being \$17 for all players except for juniors. I seconded it. The motion passed. Stu assumed the start times will be the same, 10 and 3.

Ray pointed out that someone asked him if the games on Saturday were pair games because the flyer didn't say so. Lynn asked for the sectional dates and Ray said he'd provide them after the meeting.

At 6:50 we returned to the topic of Joanne creating an Ask a Teacher program for the website and also a separate post-game discussion on Wednesday nights of selected hands by a game director or advanced player. Also, directors should be encouraged to enforce zero tolerance rules and provide lifelines for the newcomer game. Other players should be informed about the post-game lunches at Aqui. Also, we can start an Ask Me initiative to educate players at the table.

Milind pointed out that we already have a feedback mechanism on the website. He could serve as moderator, sending questions to teachers and posting answers on the website. Joanne pointed out that some people have relationships with particular teachers. Lynn B. said it is easy to overwhelm new players with too many answers or views. She said her students already ask her questions.

Ray asked if the Unit was going to authorize teachers to answer questions. Judy pointed out that three teachers are already listed on the website. Joanne said that Lynn Y and Gabi would also contribute. Mich volunteered.

Lynn B said she'd invite people at the Wednesday game to lunch at Aqui. She didn't think a lunch flyer was needed. Joanne said that the lunch could be promoted along with the sign-up invitation.

At 7:01, Mich asked for consent to address the board and to revise and extend his remarks. He said that in the 1990s as a beginner he posted a question on rec.games.bridge and Stu Goodgold responded. Mich said he'd asked Ray to write up a citation for Stu as a Goodwill nominee. Ray said he hadn't done it because he was waiting for an official selection. Mich had also asked Mischel to help him write up a recommendation of Karen as a Goodwill nominee. Ray asked if the Goodwill Committee had asked for two nominees. Mich asked for the Board's support of his

nominations. Mich clarified that he wanted to submit Karen's name to D21 and Stu's name to the ACBL. Lynn said she'd like to see the qualifications for these awards before voting on it.

Mich asked for recommendations for his column.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07.