

Minutes of Regular Zoom Meeting of ACBL Unit 507 Board

May 13, 2025 5:00 PM

In **attendance** at the virtual meeting were President Mich Ravera, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Board members Judy Fisher, Milind Girkar, Norman Marks, Mischel Postas, Betsy Wagner, and guest Joanne Cornbleet. Lynn Bartz arrived at 5:03. Guest Lynn Yokel joined at 5:05. Stu Goodgold joined at 5:07. Bruce Luttrell joined the meeting at 6:08.

The **minutes** of the April meeting that had been circulated were deemed approved by unanimous consent.

The **treasurer's reports** were accepted with thanks. We are just short of \$22,000 in the bank.

Neither Mich nor Ray had heard any nominations or inquiries about **becoming Board members**. Norman mentioned someone who might be interested. Mich said he would invite Linda Rocha to attend the next meeting. It was noted that Bruce had not expressed interest in continuing as his term is expiring. And with Norman leaving the Board, there will be another opening. There was discussion about which position Joanne would be filling, the full two-year position or the last half of Norman's term. Mich asked that Joanne be deemed elected, and Stu and Ray pointed out that Bruce's position wasn't vacant yet. Joanne said she's willing to attend the next meeting as a nonboard member. As Secretary, Ray certified there will be no elections in June because there are fewer candidates than available positions.

The proposed **amendments of the Unit's By-laws** were presented for a second reading. By-laws Committee Chair Ray reported that he had received no comments from members about the amendments that have been posted on the Unit's website. Mich said that the By-laws amendments were mentioned in his monthly column. Stu said that there should be a separate notice to all Unit members. Mich pointed out that is not what the By-laws require to publicize amendments. Mich says that a recorded Board vote is required. Stu said it isn't required. Ray noted that it requires a two-thirds vote for approval but not a recorded vote. Mich pronounced the vote by show of hands unanimous and the By-laws amended.

Regarding the **annual meeting**, Stu said Will will direct the game. Stu said he would give Board members duties. Mich will sign Ace of Clubs certificates. Mischel asked Ray to provide the reports for the Ace of Clubs and mini-McKenney. Mischel said she thought it would cost too much to hire someone to move the tables, though she hadn't heard a response from Task Rabbit yet. Ray said he would help with the tables again. Mischel will also help. Ray will get a sanction. Mischel said she wanted to pay for two nonmembers. Judy agreed with paying for one of them. Ray asked if the Board should be making personal exceptions to the rule that nonmembers pay. Mischel wants all nonmembers to be free. Ray pointed out this was voted on at last month's meeting.

Norman had circulated **guidelines for holding sectionals**. Stu commented that they seem to be too focused on holding sectionals at the U503 facility. Ray has obtained a sanction for the **fall sectional**. Norman learned that the church has some Saturdays available for a one-day local sectional. Lynn Yokel mentioned the restrictions on holding a local sectional include no more than 25 tables. Norman raised the question whether we should hold events on Fridays even if we lose money as we just did. Judy pointed out we are not required to make money.

Regarding the **spring 2026 sectional**, Ray explained that Palo Alto has a policy of not renting out its facilities for a sectional that would occur within two weeks of one of their own sectionals. This effectively blocks out the months of March and April. February is booked by other Units already. Ray has sent an inquiry about available dates in May.

Norman said that he and Mich met with Marc and Liz from Palo Alto about how to improve our sectionals. They'd like us to keep holding them. Lynn suggested that Ray ask U503 for any available dates for spring. Ray said he will ask for the next three or four sectionals. Marc told Norman they intend to hold four a year. They will be raising their fees for their facility.

Mich proposed increasing sectional table fees to \$17 in the fall if we haven't already publicized a lower rate. Lynn said she hasn't prepared a fall 2025 flyer. Mischel moved to increase the fees for fall 2025. **The motion passed** without dissent. Lynn said she'll provide snacks for the first two days and she'll provide sandwiches or pizza on Sunday. Start times are 10 and 3 the first two days. Ray said we don't yet have a sanction number for the fall. (This was corrected at the end of the meeting.)

Mischel reported that the **total membership** is 482.

Regarding the **5-5-5 program**, Norman said that Karen had shared a recent report about lower income from the program. Joanne asked if there isn't a way to induce people to return to bridge. Norman said that is the function of the 5-5-5 program. Milind will be taking over the notifications from Norman. The ACBL doesn't tell us who is renewing. Milind said it might be better for someone who is better known than he is to send the notices. Joanne said that she is interested.

Regarding the **mentor program**, Milind received a request from someone not in our Unit. Joanne is also on the list as a mentor.

As **new business**, Judy pointed out that bridge teachers are now required when teaching in government-operated facilities to have personal liability insurance. Betsy and Judy teach in Los Gatos, where the requirement will take effect in 2026. Lynn Bartz was required by the Campbell Community Center to obtain insurance for her lessons in the spring of 2025. Lynn paid \$360. Betsy said she found a three-person deal covering any location in the area for \$270. Lynn said she thought the liability requirement was higher in Campbell. The proposal is the Unit pay for the teachers' insurance. Betsy said the sites collect about half the class fees for themselves. Ray asked if the details

of the insurance coverage could be provided by the next meeting. Lynn said that Campbell required professional liability insurance of \$1 million with an aggregate of \$3 million and a deductible of \$1,500.

Mich gave Stu the gavel so that Mich could thank and compliment Norman Marks for his efforts for years on the Unit Board. The Board agreed unanimously.

As to **action items**, we need a liability quote and sanctions for the membership game and fall (Ray pointed out he did obtain a fall sanction and had sent it to Lynn Bartz).

Mischel will book a room at Jack's for the next meeting on June 17 at 5:30 PM. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Submitted by  
--Ray Yuenger