

Minutes of Regular Zoom Meeting of ACBL Unit 507 Board

July 8, 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 Lynn Bartz, and Mischel Postas, and guest Lynn Yokel. Joanne Cornbleet was welcomed by the Board to fill a vacant two-year position. Milind Girkar joined the meeting at 5:39.

The **four existing officers** were each elected to continue in their positions.

The **minutes** of the June meeting that had been circulated were deemed approved.

The **treasurer's reports** were accepted with thanks.

The Board appointed Linda Rocha in absentia to fill the remainder of the position vacated by Michael Fleisher.

Regarding the annual **membership meeting and game**, Stu wanted to confirm the availability of Will Watson, who is currently playing bridge in Europe. Stu has assigned all board members different tasks for the meeting. It was suggested that the tables could be collected after the Wednesday morning game before the meeting. Ray said he'd arrange for a key to the church to facilitate returning the tables and other supplies to storage. Mischel has been trying to get the Community Center to unblock the driveway near the Roosevelt Room. She said Joanne and Linda would staff an awards table with the Ace of Clubs and mini-McKenney awards. Ray will obtain a sanction.

Regarding **future sectionals**, Ray said we've long had the sanction for the fall sectional. Ray had received the flyer for the fall sectional, which Lynn Bartz revised after the last Board meeting to include a 49er game, and Ray will forward it to the ACBL. As far as the spring 2026 sectional on March 27, Ray had filled out a sanction request but the ACBL hadn't approved it yet. Ray says he'd ask Anne Hollingsworth about D21 sanction approval. Lynn hadn't yet created a flyer for the spring yet. Ray said fall 2026 was agreed to by Palo Alto, November 6 through 8.

Mich reminded us of his experience playing the new game Bridge Wars. To generate interest in more games, we might want to try a unit team game. Ray pointed out we don't have a unit game coordinator.

In the **In and Out report**, Mischel reported that our total membership is 485. Joanne will be taking over the reporting of the membership changes in the future. Joanne pointed out that the new members and transferring members numbers in the report don't add up. Lynn B. and Mich explained why. Sometimes people are reported as new members when they renew their memberships. Joanne noticed that most new members have low masterpoints, which is food for thought about how to welcome them. Lynn said that when she sent emails to the masterpoint race award winners, a number of people, usually with lower masterpoint totals, were no longer unit members. Lynn said that we should announce the winners earlier in the year when they are still members. Others suggested a new awards unit game. Ray said we have the results of the races on February 6.

There was some discussion about when to hold the **holiday party**. Later Ray reported that in April, three dates were selected for the holiday party, November 22, January 17 and 24. Mischel was going to look into it, but it wasn't discussed at the May meeting.

Milind reported that he'd updated the website to refine the **Mentor program**. He's received inquiries from two players who aren't U507 members. Stu had played with one, One, Lin Han, who was a student of Lynn Bartz's. She is listed as an expired member. Stu said we need more mentors.

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

As for **new business**, Joanne had circulated three different ideas for special events. One is a volunteer appreciation game that acknowledges areas of volunteering without naming individuals. She drafted sample announcements. Mich said it should be a unit game, not just during a Wednesday game and that the people being recognized should be given free plays. Ray asked who would receive free plays to if individuals aren't being recognized? Joanne said in her experience it becomes difficult to recognize individuals. Mischel said it was up to the directors.

Mischel announced that November 22 is available for the **holiday party**. Stu wanted to wait until the membership game to discuss the issue. Ray asked if we could get a refund if we booked it and changed our minds. Mischel said we could get a refund a month before the event. Milind pointed out the day is during a STaC week. With one opposed, a motion to reserve the Roosevelt room for November 22 passed, with the option to reconsider it in a month.

Returning to the proposed **special events**, Lynn Yokel said she and Gabi would be pleased to hold a volunteer appreciation game on a Wednesday. Ray said the proposal sounds so nebulous that no one will know if they qualify as volunteers. Milind agreed. Lynn Y said it would work. Joanne said the people who volunteer show up every week anyway. Lynn B said that cake doesn't interest her. She receives enough thanks from individuals as a volunteer herself at the District level. Joanne says this event appeals primarily to the newer players. Lynn Y said she'd buy the cake, and the unit doesn't need to contribute if it doesn't want to.

Joanne's two other proposals were a bagels and brunch type of game and birthday games. Mich said we will revive the topic in future meetings as time is running out.

Stu announced that District 21 is now holding **elections for Area Directors** from five areas in D21. U507 is one of five Units in our area. Stu proposed talking to the other four Units, Santa Cruz, Gilroy, Fresno, and Monterey, to see if we can coordinate nominations of candidates, which must be done by September 10. Stu mentioned that three people on the U507 Board are likely to be Directors at Large of D21 even if they don't run for Area Director positions. Mich said he would invite candidates to speak to the Unit Board. Without objection, Stu was appointed to contact the other Units.

Mich reviewed the action items, after which the meeting was adjourned, with the next meeting scheduled for August 12 in Lynn B's absence.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger