

## Minutes of Regular Zoom Meeting of ACBL Unit 507 Board

December 9, 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, Mischel Postas, Milind Girkar, and Betsy Wagner. Expected absences were Lynn Bartz and Judy Fisher. Linda Rocha joined at 5:36 PM.

Regarding the circulated **minutes** of the November meeting, Stu Goodgold had some proposed revisions. "We want" was missing from the third sentence in the fourth paragraph. In the third sentence of the 13<sup>th</sup> paragraph, Stu wanted his statement to be "nice," not "more nice" and Ray agreed to make the change and send the revised minutes to Milind at the end of the meeting. With those two modifications the minutes were approved by the Board.

The **treasurer's report** was discussed, particularly the cost of the holiday party.

Regarding **upcoming sectionals**, the revised draft flyers had been circulated to the Board. There were no suggested changes. Stu said they should be distributed at the Monterey regional. Ray said that some arrangement should be made. In the past, various people have been printing flyers at home and bringing them to tournaments, but it should probably be coordinated by our sectional chair. Linda said she could print them and bring them on Monday to Monterey. Linda said that Linda Nemmer offered to help print them. Ray said we usually print 100 at a time to distribute. People printing them on home printers have done fewer. Ray mentioned that an ACBL program called Abenity provided various discounts and used to do so at Office Depot. Mich mentioned that sectionals are the Unit's primary source of income.

Linda will also talk to Lynn B about sending several promotional blasts in advance of our sectionals. Mich suggested sending blasts 1, 3, and 5 weeks in advance of the sectional. Mischel agreed. Ray said that's more than we've ever done. Ray said that while a recent contract with D21 allows unlimited emails, Pianola may be monitoring how many emails D21 is sending and it might change its contract. Others said not to worry about it. Joanne pointed out that Palo Alto and other Units send numerous blasts about sectionals and other events. Joanne asked if someone in addition to Lynn B should be in charge of sending email blasts. Ray mentioned that directors will take leftover flyers from one tournament to another, so the Unit doesn't need to print new flyers for every tournament.

Joanne reviewed the contents of her **membership report** and the In and Out report regarding new members and losses with total membership now of 490. She is awaiting comments on her draft Welcome booklet by the end of the next day. Mich suggested that per the President's meeting, phone calls to at risk members are preferred. Joanne mentioned that many people don't answer calls from unknown callers. She'd still like to receive email addresses for the 5-5-5 program. Some of those at risk are newer players who don't know other players. Joanne has distributed a list of 59 guest members. The ACBL sends new lists without identifying who is new on the list and without separating first and last names.

Joanne said there are three lists. One is the guests. Another is the at risk members according to the 5-5-5 report. The third is the list of new members. She intends to create one email template for each list and attach the welcome booklet for those with low masterpoints. Milind volunteered to help.

The **Ask A Teacher** program is now described on our website.

Regarding the recent **holiday party**, Stu pointed out there were only 16.5 tables, about the same size as a Wednesday morning game. Mischel said she heard a lot of people say they prefer the event in January, but people did enjoy the event. Ray asked about the size of the January holiday parties. Karen said there were 78 at the last one and 64 the prior year. Stu suggested combining the holiday party or the membership meeting with a Wednesday game. Joanne questioned how we'd hand out awards during the game. Betsy also had heard favorable comments about the two January holiday parties. Some mentioned that Saturday events will attract some different people than the regular Wednesday players. Ray said that the Unit can't preempt a regular Wednesday game. The topic needs to be discussed with the Wednesday directors.

Mich solicited items for his **monthly column**.

For new business, Milind proposed that a version of the **meeting minutes** should be completed and distributed promptly to make board members aware of action items and prevent memory loss. Then the official minutes could be composed based on the video recording in time for approval at the next Board meeting. Mich said he has been trying to review action items at the end of every meeting. Betsy expressed her gratitude for Ray's efforts as Secretary. Mischel and others agreed. Joanne agreed but would recommend more summary minutes that don't try to quote individual statements. Mischel and Mich disagreed. Mich suggested that we could publish either the meeting transcript or the recording. Betsy indicated there's a tension between minor details and accuracy. Most members aren't that interested in the Board's minutes.

Ray said he has no objection to listing action items and what was decided in minutes, but it is sometimes not that easy when we don't always make formal motions to reach decisions. Ray said it would take him more time to write more condensed minutes and discussed his efforts in shortening the November minutes from two pages and three lines to two pages. That effort ended up eliminating a statement Stu had made about the cost of four-color cards. Ray doesn't want to be deciding whose statements are important and he is not volunteering to spend more time writing shorter minutes. Ray mentioned that Zoom has two features now. One is that it will create a transcript of a recording meeting, and he had shared the 74-page transcript of the November meeting in case someone wanted to condense it. Zoom also creates meeting summaries, which are often accurate but sometimes gibberish.

Mich said he still intends to find a time to hold a Unit **team game**. Mich said he would send out a list of action items if needed.

For **action items**, Linda will print 100 flyers, Mich will look for team game dates, and Joanne will proceed with her Welcome packet. The next meeting will be on January 13.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger