

Minutes of Regular Zoom Meetings of ACBL Unit 507 Board

March 10 and 24, 2026 5:30 PM

March 10

In attendance at the outset of the virtual meeting were: President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Stu Goodgold, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Board members Joanne Cornbleet, Judy Fisher, Mischel Postas, Milind Girkar, and guest Lynn Yokel. Lynn Bartz's absence was expected. Linda Rocha joined at 5:41. Betsy Wagner joined at 5:51.

Regarding the February draft **minutes**, Ray had made some last-minute modifications that were suggested by Joanne. He described the additions to two paragraphs and shared them on the screen. As modified, the minutes were approved.

The **treasurer's report** as modified by the Treasurer was accepted. Mischel asked that minor corrections such as typographical errors be addressed to Karen and not to the Board. Mich asked that he also be copied on proposed changes.

The Board identified June 6, June 20, and July 25 as possible dates for our next **annual membership meeting and game** and asked Mischel to check with the United Methodist Church for room availability.

Regarding upcoming **Board member elections**, the two-year terms are ending for Stu, Judy, Lynn, Betsy, and Milind. Judy said she isn't interested in continuing. Milind said his availability depends on whether he ends up moving to India. Mich pointed out that if Judy is not replaced, we will still have enough members. Joanne knows someone who is interested but is too busy to join right now.

Regarding the **upcoming sectionals**, Linda said that with Ray's help, she applied for sectional sanctions for 2027. She thanked Betsy for distributing flyers for the imminent sectional and Lynn B for updating the website. She and Betsy will be staffing the partnership desk but will need some advice. Mich and Stu offered advice about having a phone and where to sit. Mich will provide Betsy with the online partnership signup list. Joanne will help with partnership on Sunday. Linda said Lynn B isn't available to take Sunday lunch orders. There was discussion about coordinating the Sunday lunches with the deli.

Linda wants help from everyone on the board who will be **at the sectional** with something, including any setup and takedown needed if we have more than 38 tables of players. The club needs to be left in the same condition as we found it, including picking up trash and pushing in chairs. Stu will let her know of his availability. Karen will re-resend her tournament trends document to help predict the turnout. Linda will find out this week where the spare tables and chairs are kept. She needs more help than she had at the last sectional. Linda gave the dates for the 2027 sectional applications.

Mich said the **President's meeting** was canceled this month.

Regarding the **membership report** by Joanne, we lost 14 members. We have 78 guest members. Joanne has sent all of them the welcome packets. She invited Board members who know any guests to contact them. Betsy reported that she had spoken with someone who transferred to U503 from our Unit. She transferred because she was told their Unit is having financial difficulty and would benefit from her membership. Mich said he would talk to the U503 President about such solicitation.

Joanne named a couple with a substantial number of masterpoints whose **memberships have lapsed**. Mich said he knows them and will talk to them. Joanne has been sending welcome packets touting the benefits of U507 membership to the guests and to members with low masterpoint totals. Those benefits, which she named, should be publicized on our website. While our club has offered a limited game, most of those players prefer to play in the open game. Joanne noted that some other local clubs, including U503, are offering limited masterpoint games.

Joanne said that "Our unit members are just bombarded with **marketing emails** from Unit 503," while our Unit has "no coherent marketing strategy." Mich asked Lynn Y if the Wednesday directors are sending **email blasts** about their special games. She said they send regular weekly notices, but do not use Pianola or email blasts about club championships. Joanne said that we are now doing well by having three email blasts per sectional and two per special Unit game. Joanne recommended a new regular monthly blast around the 20th to list special games in addition to Mich's monthly column. Joanne recommended that the Wednesday directors offer a 499er game on Wednesdays or another day and market it as far as Santa Cruz. Mich said that small numbers of member increases will make a big difference in our 5-5-5 reports.

Stu and Ray had no news on the **ACBL and District 21** fronts. There was some discussion of pending changes in the nationals beginning in 2028. Mich believes it is a bad idea.

Joanne reported that a number of sectional blasts through **Marketing Solutions** weren't delivered. About 70 from one blast were blocked by Microsoft accounts like Hotmail and Outlook. Joanne herself hasn't been receiving them until recently. The drop rate decreased to 24 in the latest blast, so maybe it was fixed by Marketing Solutions. Ray said he has been in contact with James Ward about other topics, but not about this problem. Joanne said that Lynn B had contacted him but hadn't received a response yet. Joanne has a document showing that U503 had subscribed her to Marketing Solutions without her permission. Stu suggested we should find out if other Units have had the same problem of undelivered emails through Marketing Solutions.

Mich distributed a list of dates for possible **joint team games** with U503 and U498. The format of the event, whether one day or more and the type of team games, is still under discussion. Stu said the Units should decide on the format first and then schedule it. Betsy suggested that lower point players would not be interested in knockouts.

Mich reviewed topics for his **column**.

Joanne asked about D21's new **reimbursement policy for teachers and speakers**. Ray said that the Executive Committee had recently revised the District's policy and notified all Units about it, but the new policy hadn't yet been publicized in the D21 newsletter.

For **action items**, one was for everyone to help at the sectional, including printouts of the signup genius pages. Joanne said she'd bring the printouts to the Wednesday games. Another was for Board members to ask around for new board members. Joanne reiterated that we should publicize special games every month. Milind said there is already a section on the website devoted to them.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 14. The meeting was adjourned after 80 minutes. Mich said we might have a meeting the week of the sectional to tie up loose ends.

March 24

On March 24, an informal meeting was held primarily to discuss the plans for the sectional the upcoming weekend. Present were Linda Rocha, Joanne Cornbleet, Mich Ravera, Ray Yuenger, Mischel Postas, Stu Goodgold, and Milind Girkar.

Linda reviewed what has been organized, including a Sunday lunch provider, a caddy, the boards being made, and Mischel providing snacks from Costco. Linda will arrive early both days to open up.

She said we need: volunteers to set up any extra tables inside the facility and some outside for lunch; a partnership table and a separate table for lunch sales; trash cleanup after the tournament; and monitors for the coffee and for the decorum of young bridge players.

The Board voted to buy lunch for the director and caddy on Sunday and to hold the membership game on June 20.

Submitted by
--Ray Yuenger