

Minutes of Regular Zoom Meeting of ACBL Unit 507 Board

February 10, 2026 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, Board members Joanne Cornbleet, Judy Fisher, Mischel Postas, Linda Rocha, and guest Lynn Yokel. Absences of Lynn Bartz and Milind Girkar were expected. Betsy Wagner joined at 5:36.

The draft **minutes** of the January meeting, which included a correction that Joanne had suggested, were approved as circulated.

The **treasurer's report** was accepted with gratitude and without questions.

Mich presented as a consent request authorization to negotiate a **joint team game** with U503 and U498. After clarification of the request, there was no objection.

Regarding **upcoming sectionals**, Linda reported that while the current spring sectional flyer is posted on the ACBL website, the website's description of the events is inaccurate. She notified Mich and Mich notified the ACBL Tournaments department. Ray explained that while he made sure the ACBL had posted the correct flyer, he hadn't checked whether they updated their description of the events.

Linda Nemmer has been printing **spring sectional** flyers. Linda Rocha had Stu and Betsy distribute flyers to different locations. Linda asked Milind to post the flyer on the Unit's website. She has arranged for a caddy and arranged that Will will make the boards. Lynn Yokel said that Will often contacts the Director in Charge to receive the dealing instructions for the boards, but it wouldn't hurt for Linda to contact them both. Linda mentioned that Joanne had volunteered to take over the partnership desk, but Ray's name is "on the information," so how will that get sorted out? Ray said we could create a new flyer. Linda thanked Ray for doing that. Ray said there isn't much to do. Mich said that most partnerships are settled out based on the website signups. Joanne mentioned that we have Sign-Up Genius that Mich put up with his name on it. Our sign-up page doesn't list a partnership person. Mich said that the main job is to answer phone calls the day of the tournament for requests not previously resolved. Linda said we should keep it simple, the way it is with Ray's name attached and have people use Sign-up Genius. Linda said she wanted a volunteer to be responsible for lunch on Sunday. She hadn't talked to Lynn Bartz, who Ray said had volunteered to be responsible for Sunday lunches. Joanne had provided a list of volunteers.

Regarding the **fall sectional**, Linda had mentioned a conflict with a San Mateo Non-Life Master sectional at our last meeting. Mich said he had spoken with them and some other people and it didn't appear anyone wanted to change. Ray added that Anne Hollingsworth, the District 21 sectional coordinator, had contacted him asking if U507 could find another date because there had been a scheduling error. Ray said he would like to bow out of his role in arranging dates with U503 and then notifying the D21 coordinator before applying for a sectional sanction. The U507 Board had approved of

the fall 2026 sectional dates in July 2025. Ray wasn't aware if San Mateo had anything scheduled at the time. If we are looking for another weekend for fall 2026, someone else should be following up with U503 and Anne. Ray was unaware why Anne was asking us to find another date. Ray was unaware if Anne has a role in scheduling NLM sectionals. Ray said he'd introduce Linda to Anne and Marc Cervellino.

Regarding scheduling **future sectionals**, Ray said we seem to be financially limited to holding sectionals at the Palo Alto Bridge Center, so he first makes plans with Marc to find an available date. Then he brings alternate dates to the U507 Board for approval. Then Ray asks Anne Hollingsworth if the date is okay given other Unit sectionals. Stu suggested we should consider rescheduling our spring sectional to a winter date.

Stu reported on attending a **meeting between Unit Presidents** and Bronia Jenkins, the ACBL Executive Director. The Canadian Bridge Federation has an upcoming fund-raising online game. In 2027, you must be an ACBL member to play in a regional except for novices, but it will be left to Districts to define "novice." Stu said guest members now can remain guest members but are limited in what masterpoints they can earn. Mich said he could forward the updated policy to the Board. In the future, Nationals are changing into National events for all, eliminating regional events. This will allow smaller venues. Bridge Battle is a new offering to beginning players.

Joanne provided the **membership report**. Our total membership is 488, down 3. She had circulated a written report describing our progress with the 5-5-5 program and said we were doing well. We received 14% rebate out of a possible 15%. We have 16 new guests. The ACBL is not classifying people as at-risk if their membership renewal will be automatic. It takes about 3 months for a lapsed member to lose privileges. ACBL is now following up on at-risk members rather than asking Units to do so. Mich asked Joanne to inform him of new guests who have become members. She said it will show up in the next month's in-and-out report. Joanne has been mailing out the welcome pamphlets and had received four responses. Birthday games have started up. Ask your partners to become volunteers.

Ray reported that **District 21 had its annual meeting**, the first Board meeting of the year, at which the five D21 officers were re-elected. This was the first meeting of the newly downsized Board with 15 area directors and two At-Large Directors. The Board also approved of the Treasurer's report as an annual report.

As **new business**, Ray mentioned two requests by Lynn Yokel, one that the Unit make up the difference in cost (\$1.50 a table) of unit championships to allow table fees for those special events to remain the same, and the other to cover the \$200 cost of a used BridgeMate server. Both requests were approved by the Board without objection.

Mich had two items for his **next President's column**. He explained to Karen, who missed the last meeting, that the Board had voted to make the annual report available upon request by a Unit member. Upon such request, Karen should ask the member not to publish the report on the Internet.

Mich mentioned that we need to start planning the **membership meeting**.

Mich said there were a couple of **action items**. Linda and Ray needed to interact and talk about the fall sectional. Mich had already welcomed the people who were going to be reported as welcomed the next month. Joanne asked if we should start putting out flyers about our sectional. Stu said we were. Mich initiated a discussion about when email blasts would be sent out. Linda said she had talked with Lynn Bartz about the dates for email blasts and we should be seeing something in the next week.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 10.

Submitted by
--Ray Yuenger