



Unit 557 Board Meeting  
May 21, 2024

Board Members Present: Cherene Birkholz, Fern Dunbar, Joey DuRee, Jenny Ernest, Nancy Imbery, Judith Jones, Chuck Laine, Linda Leventhal, Alan Olschwang, Ann Peacock, Lillian Slater, Melanie Smothers, Casey Stiers, Rita Van Lierop

**Board President Lillian called the meeting to order at 11:04.**

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

- Approval was delayed until the June meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Jenny reported a beginning balance of \$15,538.06 and ending balance of \$15,241.3 with a \$94 loss on the unit game. As long as we maintain a substantial ending balance, it's not important that the Unit Game have a positive balance.
- Attendance at the Unit Game is still below pre-COVID levels.

**Hospitality Report**

- There was no activity last month.
- Nancy will send a sympathy card to Carol Murakoshi for the passing of her husband and to Fred Willbanks for the passing of his wife.

**Long Beach Bridge Center Update**

- Chuck reported on maintenance issues including a broken elevator with cleaning people stuck inside and requests to landlord to clean the entryway and stairs.
- Lillian expressed kudos to Joey and Rita for their excellent work, maintaining the monthly calendar and website respectively.
- Lillian noted that the shopping center's remodel is months behind due to rain, but it appears to be positive once it's finished.

- The construction workers have been very helpful in directing people into the club.

### **Leisure World Report**

- Judy reported that there were 64 ½ tables during 9 days of play, averaging 7.1 tables.
- Leisure World games are usually 26–27 boards and last until 4:30 p.m.
- With the reduced number of games offered at Leisure World, more of their players are coming to Long Beach Bridge Center.

### **May 18<sup>th</sup> Unit Game**

- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Food: Joey will get cookies. Lillian will purchase ice cream and toppings.
- In addition to grapes and melon, Melanie suggested cutting bananas into slices, something that has worked well at other clubs.
- Whatever food is offered is eaten.

### **Old Business**

Recap of May 18<sup>th</sup> NLM Sectional:

- Income from the tournament was \$952 and there was \$200 profit after expenses.
- Ann moved to pay Sean an extra \$50 for consulting fees. All voted in favor.
- Lillian thanked Rita, Joey, Judy, and Jane Reid for homemade bakery goods and fruit.
- The tournament attracted new people who haven't played at the club before as well as some NLM players who had not previously returned to the club.
- Ann pointed out that the reputation of the club as a welcoming place has encouraged new people to come to our games.

### **New Business**

There was a discussion regarding the scheduling of June games:

- The team game was moved to June 9<sup>th</sup> because the third Sunday is Father's Day.

November 16-17 Local Sectional:

- Judy volunteered to head the partnership desk and will coordinate with Lillian. Rita will establish an online partnership desk for the unit. People need to sign up through the unit, not the club's Bridge Finesse.
- Contact [partnershipdesk@longbeachbridge.com](mailto:partnershipdesk@longbeachbridge.com) for assistance.
- The card fees will be \$14 per session and reservations will be taken at the Long Beach Bridge Club.

- We will charge \$14 per session, the going rate for most and less than what a few other units charge.
- Rob got some complaints that the fees were too high. Most believe that it is not a problem and that we are competitive with others. Joey suggested that next year we offer players a break, i.e., both morning/afternoon sessions for \$25 versus the \$28 they paid this year.
- Stratification brackets for the Swiss team game was discussed. The board voted to place teams based on the players' masterpoint average (rather than the highest MP of any team member)
- Sean prefers to determine the stratifications once people show up to provide the optimal, equitable distribution.

#### July Bridge Week Regional:

- Lillian is still concerned about the parking, thinks that a "parking guru" needs to take charge of this issue. There need to be signs at the event as well as a detailed understanding of the options.
- Currently the Courthouse is available for parking, but it's more than a five- minute walk. There is shuttle "at peak hours," but it's not clear how regular that will be.
- People who are staying at the hotel can use their parking, but others would have to pay a \$45 fee for valet parking service.
- There is supposed to be another parking facility nearby but again it's not clear as to its availability/cost.

#### Club Board Meeting

- Chuck reminded members that there will be a Club Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Adjournment**

- Alan moved and Ann seconded a motion to adjourn at 11:55. All voted in favor.

Next Board meeting is on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Leventhal, Secretary of Unit 557