



Unit 557 Board Meeting
November 19, 2024

Members Present: Leo Dittimore, Fern Dunbar, Joey DuRee, Nancy Imbery, Judith Jones, Chuck Laine, Linda Leventhal, Alan Olschwang, Ann Peacock, Lillian Slater, Casey Stiers, Rita Vanlierop

Board President Lillian called the meeting to order at 11:02.

Treasurer's Report: In Jenny's absence, Lillian provided this report:

- The October ending account balance was \$16,330.31.
- The increase was largely due to a \$932 rebate from ACBL for members' dues.
- The October Unit Game lost \$56.50. Low attendance at the Unit Game was partially due to the district NAP finals in Pasadena the same day.

Hospitality Report:

Nancy reported that she received excellent and informed feedback from Jane Manson on her recipes for the many varieties of cookies she made for the tournament.

Nancy sent cards to:

- Paul Pettler, who had a fall and is in rehab.
- Condolences to the partner of Brad Abajian who passed away from complications after surgery at only 56 years old.

Long Beach Bridge Center Update:

- We have a "new" old fridge donated by John Kilmer.
- Lillian recommended getting rid of the freezer which isn't energy efficient and requires defrosting. Chuck said he doesn't want to purchase a new freezer until we move to a new venue.
- Chuck reported that he hasn't yet spoken with the property management's new employee who is now responsible for signage.

Leisure World Report:

- The attendance stats were not available.
- The number of boards played at Leisure World was reduced from 27 to 24 because the ending game time was too late.

Unit Game, November 24th

- Director: Sean
- Boards: Lillian
- Food: 4 Pumpkin pies – Judy; Lillian whipped cream

Christmas Party/Unit Game, December 15th, Organized by Fern Dunbar

- Director: Sean
- Boards: Lillian
- Flyer: Ardie, Rita webpage
- Food: Potluck and Fern will buy 2 hams,
- People who don't bring a dish should plan to donate to the Women's Shelter.

ALACBU: Lillian reported that they are in better financial condition than initially predicted.

- The contract for the regional tournament at the Long Beach Hilton required a certain number of rooms be booked by bridge players. However, some players cancelled and rebooked at a cheaper advertised rate. District personnel reviewed the bookings and identified players who booked rooms via this process to get them credited to the regional.
- As a result, ALACBU met its required booking number, and the regional tournament had a \$2,000 profit.

November 16-17 Sectional

- Preliminary reports show a \$3,500+ profit. The Sectional had 56 tables Saturday and 26 on Sunday for the team game.
- The tournament was a local sectional because we directly hire Sean Lui versus an ACBL director with extra charges for per diem, computer usage, etc. ACBL requires a local tournament to pay for an ACBL supervising director who is available online and by telephone.
- On the flyer, it listed a 25-table limit, but a local sectional limit should be 24 tables, as Sean confirmed with ACBL 's Tony Green.
- Lillian acknowledged the following people for their extra help with the tournament: *Casey Stiers, Chuck Laine, Ardie Laine, Jeanette Estill, Jenny Ernest, Joey DuRee, Judy Jones, Leo Dittimore, Nancy Imbery, Rita Vanlierop, and Lynda Montgomery (our Sunday caddy.)*

Post-Mortem: How to make it better:

- Develop a reservation system that enables the unit to honor the 24-table limit. Casey has volunteered and will use email for registration. Everyone who registers will receive a confirmation via email.
- Bridge Finesse needs to delete the tournament dates, so people won't be able to sign up via the club's website for those days and think that they've registered.
- After 24 tables are filled, registration requests will be placed on a waiting list.
- Partnerships will be given priority over singles looking for a partner.
- Players must arrive at least 15 minutes early or their reservations may be given to someone else.
- A hospitality host for the day should be recruited to meet and greet people and to make all announcements.
- Rita suggested that we use a digital card reader for those who want to pay with a credit card and charge them \$1.00 extra for the transaction's fee.
- Casey commended Lynda Montgomery for the phenomenal job she did as the only caddy and suggested that next time there should be two. (NOTE: Lillian discussed this with Sean who believes Lynda as one caddy is sufficient.)
- The tournament manager should not try to play in the morning Pairs event, remaining free to handle last-minute issues and/or to fill in.
- Casey was concerned about the movement for the team game. Sean strongly recommends that movement as all teams play the same boards, a more equitable competition. Once he and Lynda got the hang of it, sets could be interchanged. Players with loud voices need to be moved to the corner to avoid other teams overhearing the results.
- Lillian made 22 sets of boards and needs help with this next year.

As tournament manager, Lillian needs an apprentice(s) to learn how to run a tournament.

New Business:

- There is a Team Game on December 1st; Alan Flower will be the Director. This date changed due to the unit's holiday party on the third Sunday.

Leo made a motion to adjourn at 11:59 a.m. It was seconded by Judy, and unanimously approved.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 11 a.m., to welcome new board members, elect officers and plan for 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Leventhal, Secretary