



Unit 557 Board Meeting
January 21, 2025

Members Present: Cherene Birkholz, Leo Dittmore, Fern Dunbar, Joey DuRee, Jenny Ernest, Nancy Imbery, Chuck Laine, Alan Olschwang, Lillian Slater, Casey Stiers, Rita Vanlierop, Melinda Wilson

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

She noted that two items were handled by email votes in December:

- The November minutes were unanimously approved and have been posted on the website.
- The board authorized a payment of \$125 to Long Beach Bridge Center, to be applied to the refurbishment of one of Dealer4 machines. The unit uses this machine to generate boards for its unit games and tournaments.

Election of Officers:

Leo was nominated to be president by Chuck and seconded by Alan.

- He announced that he wanted everyone to be aware of his agenda before voting. He wants to maximize efficiency by combining the unit and the club and, therefore, their boards.
- Considerable discussion of this issue ensued. There is overlap of persons serving on both boards; however, the unit and club are independent entities with separate and different 501 tax ids, separate governing boards, separate bylaws, separate responsibilities, and separate bank accounts.
- Several board members voiced their concerns and objections to combining the two. Some issues raised were ACBL guidelines, the Leisure World club's status if a change were made, and the research/work required to effect such a change.
- After discussion, Leo indicated that he would change his opening position if the board agreed to consider any detailed proposal/plan he may generate.
- A vote was held and Leo was unanimously elected president.

President Leo assumed control of the meeting at 11:25 a.m.:

- Fern nominated Cherene as vice president, which was seconded by Alan, and unanimously approved by the board.
- Alan nominated Jenny Ernest as treasurer, which was seconded by Casey, and unanimously approved by the board.
- All potential nominees for secretary were unable to commit to the job at this time. Lillian agreed to accept the position in the interim until someone is able to take over. Chuck nominated Lillian as secretary, which was seconded by Rita and unanimously approved by the board.
- Cherene agreed to become the unit's second voting representative at ALACBU District 23 meetings.

Treasurer's Report:

- Jenny reported that the December holiday unit game was the largest we've had since pre-COVID June 2019. With 23 tables, we realized a profit of \$232.
- The December 31, 2024, ending checking account balance was \$20,254.39.

Hospitality Report: Nancy reported:

- Sending a Sympathy card to Cherene.
- Sending Get Well cards to Alan Flower, Jerry Glen, and Melinda Wilson's son.
- Sending a card to Carol Murakoshi to let her know we were thinking of her.

Long Beach Bridge Center Update:

Chuck announced that during February's Club Championship week, the club will host a free lunch on Wednesday to celebrate the extra points being awarded.

Education: Fern reported that:

- Bridge 2 and 3 have started with 4 tables and 3-4 tables respectively.
- Bridge 1 will begin April 1 with enrollment leads provided by OLLI and ACBL.
- Rob's Monday workshop continues to thrive with 11+ tables each week.

Unit Games:

- The 2025 unit games were calendared as follows: January 26, February 23 (Awards), March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 23, and December 14 (holiday party).
- An additional unit sanction is being used for the Chinese Alumni Association's game on July 19.
- After the board meeting Leisure World requested their unit games be scheduled on March 14, June 13, August 18, and October 20.
- Seven unit sanctions remain for use by the Long Beach Bridge Center as scheduled by Joey and Chuck.
- Lillian stated that Joey is doing a fabulous job with the club's calendar, ensuring that all available upgraded games are being used, awarding more points to the players.

Unit Board Meetings: Historically the unit board meets the Tuesday before a scheduled unit game with no meeting in December.

- Leo suggested that the board should always meet on the 3rd Tuesday regardless of the unit game's date. Most agreed this was easier to calendar.
- A motion was made and unanimously approved to adopt this change.

Unit Game: January 26th

- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Food: Cookies purchased by Melinda with ice cream purchased by Lillian.

Tournaments: Tournament Chair Lillian is working on scheduling:

- A May one-day NLM Pairs tournament on Saturday, May 3.
- A local sectional in November, probably on the 15-16.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Alan and so ordered by Leo to adjourn at 11:59 a.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 18, at 11 a.m.

Respectfully reported by Lillian Slater, Secretary