



Unit 557 Board Meeting  
February 18, 2025

**Members Present:** Cherene Birkholz, Joey DuRee, Jenny Ernest, Nancy Imbery, Chuck Laine, Alan Olschwang, Lillian Slater, Casey Stiers, Melinda Wilson

**Vice President Cherene presided over the meeting in Leo's absence, calling it to order at 11:02 a.m.**

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Alan to approve the January 21, 2025, minutes. The motion was seconded by Jenny and unanimously approved by the board.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jenny reported:

- The January 31, 2025, ending checking account balance was \$20,651.72, which included income of \$412, a rebate from ACBL for members' dues collected.
- With 11 tables in the Open and 4 in the NLM section, the January unit game had a profit of \$46.25.

**Hospitality Report:** Nancy reported sending condolences card to Leo and Allan Lubitz.

**Leisure World Report**

- Lillian explained that, thanks to Chuck's generosity, Long Beach Bridge Center is now supporting Leisure World's games by allowing them to make boards on the club's Dealer4 machines and to print 15 copies of hand records/game. Lillian serves as coordinator, loading the game files for them and forwarding files to the director for posting.

- Lynn Danielson is making the boards each week and has been invited to attend the monthly unit board meetings. She will do so periodically, and is evaluating if she should serve as liaison or become a board member representative.
- Lynn is currently using the unit's boards and one carrying case, but Leisure World is planning on buying their own. Leisure World is also providing paper for their hand records.
- Chuck has offered to provide the new cards needed for their boards in order to keep the club's dealing machine as clean as possible.

### **Electronic Payment of Card Fees:**

- The board briefly discussed Rita's research on this. The best candidate appears to be Square but some questions remain.
- In general, it appears to be something more useful for tournaments but too much extra work for the directors to collect the club's game fees.
- Chuck will scratch off the "We take [credit card]" sticker on the club's front door.
- Casey suggested evaluating the use of Zelle. We need to check with the bank as it would involve opening a second bank account to receive Zelle payments in order to protect the unit's regular checking account.
- Future action was tabled until Rita is in attendance.

### **Long Beach Bridge Center Update:**

- Chuck highlighted upcoming special games with last week's Stardust games the the upcoming Silver Linings and district STaC upcoming in March.
- Kudos to Joey for researching and scheduling as many special games as available to maximize players' masterpoints.

In Leo's absence, Chuck raised the issue of emergency procedures for the club.

Discussions included:

- The club's defibrillator needs to be maintained and recertified. Chuck will handle that.
- People need to be trained to use the defibrillator and recertified in CPR. Joey's husband is a retired firefighter, capable of providing such training to a small group. Joey will determine if he is willing to do so.
- Lillian noted that it should be required training for all directors and, as space is available, open to interested club members. The unit could potentially offer stipends as motivation for attendance.

- An emergency contact needs to be on file for players. Leo suggested using a field in the ACBL file that directors can access. Lillian demonstrated using the Emergency Contact feature on smart phones. Members need to provide a contact, and procedures need to be advertised in Table Talk and on the club's bulletin boards to educate players on how to use it.

Discussions then switched to the club's directory, currently maintained in a Constant Contact database. It needs to be kept current and periodically printed in hard copy form. It was suggested that a subcommittee evaluate this and make recommendations. Further action was tabled until Rita returns as she, Jenny, and Ardie would be essential members of said subcommittee.

Taking telephone calls at the bridge table has become an issue. Chuck and the directors will make announcements regarding this problem. They will also discuss/evaluate penalties.

**Unit Game:** February 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Director: Sean Lui
- Boards: Lillian
- Food: Melinda volunteered to get the cake, inscribed with Congratulations, for the Awards celebration.
- Melinda will assist Jenny in collecting the money in Lillian's absence.
- Chuck will open the club at 11:30 a.m.

**Tournaments:** Tournament Coordinator Lillian has scheduled:

- A May one-day NLM Pairs tournament on Saturday, May 17.
- A local sectional on November 15-16.
- A unit-sponsored STaC week in April. She is still researching what is involved in hosting one of these.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Alan and seconded by Jenny to adjourn at 11:47 a.m.

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

Respectfully reported by Lillian Slater, Secretary