

August 10, 2023, Unit 207 Board of Directors minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:18 PM

Members present: Sharon Hoger, Mark Craig, Jamie Southerland, Rebecca Brown and Nola Ray. Zoom members present: Pat Berry, Nancy Joe and Barbara Clements

Action: minutes approved from July 13, seconded, and all in favor.

Action: agenda approved from August 10, seconded, and all in favor.

Club reports: most are still struggling, but remain optimistic about continuing.

From Rita: The Georgetown duplicate bridge club is ready to re-open on Wednesday, September 6 at the Georgetown Recreational Center. John Olson is the club manager and Steve Olson is the Director. Bill Horton will arrange for partners if contacted the day before play. Sun City continues to grow. Having lessons right in Sun City continues to help with membership and play.

From San Marcos: Mary Cisneros has been ill and hasn't been able to teach. Her students continue to play at the library and the Price Center. We'd like to attract her students: for example we could get a list of her students and have each board member contact a few with an invitation. Really want her 0-50 players to come out for tournaments.

Harry Ingham has reached out to get the dealing machine refurbished for the price of \$550.00. We paid half to buy that dealing machine and the one at the club. The other half was paid for by the BCA. A suggestion was made that San Marcos pay for 1/2 of the cost of repair.

From Harry: we have been struggling with the closing of our Monday, Friday Anchor Bar location. I am leaving out the Friday game, at least for the summer. Found a good location for the Monday game at Grinn's. Attendees liked it very much. Still limping along with Wednesday at CiCi's, but I've lost a couple of folks for medical reasons, and have not filled the gap. Just had the dealing machine refurbished and have a bill just over \$500 which he plans to submit as soon as he gets to Austin.

From Larry

House games and West Lake are holding up. Gaines ranch and South Austin SAC resume in September. Hopefully they will survive.

We are now at four tables consistently, and sometimes five, even six

From Diana

Kingsland duplicate bridge club is surviving, but not thriving. Losing Jim Davis was a real blow to us all. We are meeting only on Mondays. Hope to return to Monday and Thursday schedule in September. Many members have escaped the Texas heat for a few weeks.

We also survived a lightning strike and have a new computer to run our programs. That has been a big learning curve. Joy Cogburn

Membership report by Barbara Clements: 5 new members, 2 transfers in, Jack Lacy has transferred out, 24 transfer renewals. Total membership is 963.

Treasurer's report: motion to approve, seconded and all in favor.

Lecture program update:

Nancy Joe's lecture to the newcomers was well received. It was recorded on Zoom. It is suggested that attendees sign in with email addresses and will get a link to the lecture. It was also noted that if you Google district 16 zoom lecture, it will come up.

Note to Jamie: Nancy Joe gets \$100 for her lecture and Larry gets \$50 for the NLM tournament that didn't make.

September 2: George Watkins on card placement.

October 7: Pam LaShelle. Topic TBA. Also the date for the Lone Arranger. So lecture start time will be at 12 noon.

Upcoming Sectionals.

August: 7.5 tables Saturday and 1.5 tables Sunday. Discussion held on changing two days sectionals to Friday and Saturday as opposed to Saturday and Sunday.

Ken McMorrin can give us the numbers for members with 0-50 points, 0-200 points, 0-299 points, etc.

Another idea to increase the table count at the tournaments is to offer a raffle for the Sunday attendees that might include playing with an expert player in the one life master game on Mondays (or any game).

September 21-24 Sectional: Kevin is the director. Barbara C photographer.

October 7. Need director

October. 0-50. Jamie. 1:30

November (4-5) 0-750. Larry director. Try Friday with 2 games each day 10 and 2 pm Nov 3-4. Nola and Sharon.

Swiss 11-11. Director?

Holiday Party 12-9. Big FOOD.

Larry on Hotel negotiations:

Double Tree (letting us reserve until 2026), Holiday Inn (not responding) and Crown Plaza (has another event).

Double Tree is leading. \$6500 includes main ballroom and assorted little rooms for limited games, lectures and district meeting. Only paying tax on \$4700 and not paying tax on \$1800 for the cookies.

District breakfast is paid for by the district. The DIC receives room for the duration. And we get another room for \$60.00 a night (7 nights). Microphone, parking and Wi-Fi is free along with little odds and ends.

If they want to back out of our agreement, they will give us 1.5 years notice. (December 31, 2024)

A \$2.00 surcharge for bringing in box lunches for the Swiss day. George Watkins has helped in the past.

Action: let's go with The Doubletree, seconded and all in favor. Chairman is Mark. Larry to sign contract.

Need to firm up the schedule in order to send to the ACBL. Needs to be approved by the board first.

Do we have a 2024 unit 207 candidate recruiter team? Volunteers are Nancy Joe, Barb Clement and Jamie. Names for the possible slate include Susan Thompson, Stuart Litwin and Sam Dinkin.

Re: nomination of the goodwill member of the year.

Tom Bell, Sally Sassen and Jamie Southerland had a conversation about the BCA. Summer has been slow at the BCA. No one (BCA or Owners) is open to signing another lease as they are losing money.

Rebecca Brown recalled what Robert Donathan said: that there is not another property in Austin for less money than we are paying. He also suggested that the landlord might be interested in a month to month lease. FYI in 2026, the movie theater's lease will be up and the landlord is interested at that point in selling the property.

Larry's suggested that since we have tournaments in January, February and May, that would help support the BCA during the first six months of 2024.

If we lose the BCA, we lose a place to hold tournaments. Club games can continue. We are not obligated to hold tournaments.

Meeting adjourned at 1545.

Respectfully submitted, Nola Ray