

ACBL Unit 509 Santa Rosa / Petaluma
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
May 14, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Neill Ray called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. via Zoom. In attendance were Cathy Netz, Harley Conner, Maxine Reagh, Patty Shribbs, and Roy Redlich. This constituted a quorum of Board Members. Also attending was Kathy Venton.

Approval of Minutes

A motion passed to approve minutes from the Board Meeting of March 12, 2024.

Treasurer's Report

Maxine Reagh reported on balances for the Unit's checking and savings accounts. Harley Conner reviewed the statement of receipts and expenditures for the four months ending April 30, 2024. Harley pointed out that the Spring Sectional contributed significantly to net revenues for this period.

Committee Reports

Tournaments – Harley Conner

Harley reported that because we have a history of attendance at Sectionals the club is more adept at making projections of expenses and revenues for these events.

Membership – Harley Conner

Harley reported that the Unit's roster is holding fairly steady around 231 to 233 members. Harley uses the "5/5/5" tool provided by the ACBL to monitor unit membership.

Harley reported that through April 2024 the Unit has issued 65 free play coupons this year. Most of these (56) were awards for masterpoint races. Harley reiterated the Board's policy that free play coupons can only be redeemed in the year that they are issued and only by the person named on the coupon. Kathy suggested that some players may be reluctant to redeem them because they may think it diminishes Kathy's revenue for the game. They may not understand that Kathy is reimbursed by the Unit for validly redeemed coupons.

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Education – Kathy Venton

Kathy reported that she comes in contact with social bridge players who are interested in playing a duplicate club game. She is looking for volunteers who would be willing to partner with an interested newer player for one or more games at the Bridge Gallery. To provide an incentive for club members to partner with non-members Kathy will waive the table fees for the volunteer. In addition, the Board approved a motion to award one Free Play coupon for every three volunteer games played. The coupon would be redeemable at either the Bridge Gallery or Finley. This proposal to help grow membership was approved for Bridge Gallery games on a trial basis through the end of the calendar year.

The *Longest Day* fundraiser is coming up next month and the Unit will continue its practice of providing a \$100 check to the Alzheimer's Association.

Hospitality – Maxine Reagh

Maxine reported that plans are continuing for the Unit's annual holiday party on Saturday, December 14th with a catered lunch.

Finley 509 Report – Maxine Reagh

Maxine reported that earlier this month the Finley Center celebrated the first anniversary of the Finley games. Noteworthy was a celebration of Betty Sather's 102nd birthday concurrent with the anniversary. Betty's 101st birthday was celebrated at Finley Center at the first game held there one year ago.

Attendance has been very good with games enjoying eight to eleven and a half tables. Maximum capacity has been increased to 12 tables. To accommodate this expansion, it was necessary to purchase an additional Bridgemate and four bidding boxes. The purchase of a new laptop computer was also required as the donated one failed. With these additional expenditures, it is expected that recoupment of the Unit's advances to the Finley club will take a few more months.

Unfinished Business

Advertising

At this time, the Board is not aware of any local teachers who are offering a beginning bridge class and want to advertise it. The Board discussed helping to pay part of the advertising costs at such time that a bridge class was made available.

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Zero Tolerance Policy

The club directors have made a point of telling players before the start of a game to treat each other with kindness and respect. Harvey Connor said that his review of ACBL policy indicates directors have the authority to assess a penalty on players who violate the policy.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20th at 5:00. Neill Ray will host the meeting on Zoom.

Adjournment

A motion was passed to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roy Redlich, Secretary