

ACBL Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
October 15, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Neill Ray called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. via Zoom. In attendance were Cathy Netz, Harley Conner, Jane Drever, Maxine Reagh, Patty Shribbs, and Roy Redlich. This constituted a quorum of Board Members. Also attending were Jackie Ortiz and Kathy Venton.

Approval of Minutes

A motion passed to approve minutes from the Board Meeting of August 20, 2024.

Treasurer's Report

Maxine Reagh reported on the balance for the Unit's checking account and remarked that the ACBL dues sharing was received. Harley Conner reported that the biggest impact to our budget was from the fall Sectional which operated at a loss of \$154. The number of attendees was only a few less than last year's fall Sectional, but players engaged in fewer sessions. Another factor was an increase in ACBL fees including an 18% increase in sectional surcharge fees.

Committee Reports

Tournaments – Maxine Reagh and Harley Conner

Maxine reported she received lots of positive comments regarding the fall Sectional including the atmosphere, hospitality, and Jackie's wonderful lunch. Harley reported that fifty-five to sixty percent of those attending our Sectionals are from outside our Unit. Harley reported that requests have been submitted to ACBL to sanction Sectional dates in 2027 and 2028. Jackie mentioned that the District appreciates how well in advance our Unit plans the Sectional Tournaments.

Membership – Harley Conner

Harley reviewed the written report he provided of the Unit's membership for the nine months ending September 30, 2024. Membership has been holding steady. Harley reported 78 Free Play Coupons have been issued for the current year of which 23 are outstanding.

Education – Jane Drever and Kathy Venton

Jane reported that Kathy Juarez has twelve students in her online beginners bridge class. Kathy Venton reported that there are three new players who are attending games regularly at her club.

Minutes of Unit 509 Board of Directors Meeting October 15, 2024

Hospitality – Maxine Reagh

Maxine reported that the invitation for the Unit's annual holiday party has been issued and people have been signing up for it. A deposit to the caterer has been paid. Maxine will be putting an article in the newsletter about the event and asking people to contribute to a "cookie bar." We are planning for about 17 tables.

Finley 509 Report – Maxine Reagh

Maxine reported getting consistent attendance of around 9 tables per game. Harley Conner had suggested that those who play at the Finley club for the first time play for free. Maxine will implement this starting October 16th, and will write an article for the newsletter informing readers of this new policy designed to provide an incentive to increase attendance at Finley.

New Business

Newsletter

Harley reported that although the Unit only has about 230 members there are more than 350 subscribers to the newsletter. This indicates that the newsletter has a broader readership than Unit 509. The newsletter is not an official publication of the Unit 509 Board, it is something that Cecelia Zachar does of her own volition. The board expressed gratitude for Cecilia's newsletter which provides valuable service to the membership and the larger bridge community.

Proposed 2025 Annual Budget

Harley pointed out that the proposed budget for 2025 was included in the written financial statement that was emailed to Board members prior to this meeting. The proposed budget accounts for projected revenues from the Spring and Fall Sectionals, and the number of Finley 509 games expected to be held during the year. Harley will fine tune the proposed budget and submit it to the Board for approval at a meeting to be scheduled in January 2025.

Unit 508 (Marin)

Maxine shared information regarding a meeting which took place last week at the behest of the Unit 508 Board members. Maxine, Kathy Venton and two board members from Unit 508 met and exchanged information. Maxine and Kathy shared ideas for achieving good attendance at tournaments such as having local teachers provide bridge classes and providing lunch at some of the games. Marin does a huge annual fundraiser for a local homeless services agency.

Next Meeting

The Board will convene at the Unit 509 Annual Meeting held at the holiday party on Saturday, December 14th at the Petaluma Community Center.

Minutes of Unit 509 Board of Directors Meeting October 15, 2024

Adjournment

A motion was passed to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roy Redlich, Secretary