

UNIT 533 BOARD MEETING – 9/26/24

Board Members Present:

Nancy Beckerman

Ann Carter

Vicki Graves

Kathy Kroll

Diane Jobin

Diana Seeb

DeAnn Young

Barb Wegener

Treasurer: Bill Dani

Guest: Sean Lui

Board Members Absent:

Sue Blom

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am at the Duncan Bridge Center. Minutes from the prior Board meeting had been approved electronically.

SECTIONAL: November 8-9, 2024, January 10-11, 2025 & February 14-15, 2025

Vicki noted that all three of these events should be on our calendars. The flyers for the Harvest & NLM events were forwarded to each board member. She commented that the NLM event in January would be a tribute to Mick Riccio.

Diane reported on the upcoming Harvest Sectional. She said she was going to ask John Kubisty if he will oversee the food. Bill volunteered to caddy on Saturday afternoon.

Volunteers are needed as Greeters and as Guaranteed Partners for both the Open and 0-750 game. Sean had suggested after the last sectional that we might get a bigger Limited table count if we raised the bar from 499er to 750 so we are trying that. Mick suggested that we offer prizes in the Limited game. Diane said she is considering gift cards which can be mailed—while the players are still there.

Bill presented the budget for the tournament based on 130 tables. Included in the budget: Directors fees per ACBL, 12 free plays, Advertising and flyers, & refreshments at only \$1.00 per person (assuming food donations).

MEMBERSHIP:

Kathy presented an update on our Outreach Program's efforts to find people who want to learn to play bridge. The following Country Clubs have posted fliers for Randy's and Mick's October classes: Sun City, Palm Valley, Eldorado, Ivy Ranch, and Ironwood. Also posting flyers: Joslyn Center, EOS Gym, and the Community Centers in Indio & La Quinta. We need to find someone to post them in Palm Springs.

Ideas to pursue: Kathy will follow up with options/prices for ads in the Desert Sun. Kathy also suggested looking into the possibility of having Country Club Invitational Days and perhaps serve food and maybe a ½ hour lesson. Vicki said we needed to check with Sue Blom on this as she'd already pursued this idea with Sun City

Shadow Hills with an intent to follow up in October. We also need to focus on the use of Social Media.

Vicki discussed an ACBL Guest Membership program. This new membership is free for 4 months and then \$29.00 for the first year. Unfortunately, 'free' Guest Members are held in a fictitious Unit 999 and we don't know their names/can't incorporate them into our community while they're free. We also don't get any credit on 5/5/5 for recruiting them. She said that at least one unit has started paying the \$29 if they convert to paid status immediately and she asked if we should try this with those students finishing Randy & Mick's beginning bridge classes. She said we could possibly use the WIN account for this. A motion was made and approved. Deann and Bill will work out the processes needed.

5/5/5 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Bill noted that for the second quarter we'd received more money under this plan than in prior years. Nancy said she was current on the 3rd quarter activity. Vicki noted that she'd forwarded the revisions to the plan just announced by ACBL. They'd reduced the requirements slightly on new and lost memberships.

HOLIDAY PARTY: December 8, 2024

It was decided to hold the event on December 8th. Ann will be in charge and said she would organize a potluck. It was decided not to include a Pro-Am game.

TEACHERS WORKSHOP:

ACBL's teacher's workshop, a 2 day course which provides accreditation to bridge instructors, will be held for the first time here in the desert on December 14-15th. Vicki proposed reimbursing the \$125.00 fee for the three members of our unit that have signed up for this: Joy Barron, Randy Bissett, & Cookie Ostrow. It was approved.

FINANCIALS:

Bill reviewed the budget status and projections for the remainder of 2024. He projects a surplus.

PHISHING:

Vicki commented on the phishing emails generated by ACBL's website using the names of board members (albeit with fictitious email address) as the sender. The emails ask for some action from the recipient...i.e. spend money for a bridge need and they'll be reimbursed. This has been happening at every level for at least six years. **Please do not respond.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10. The next meeting will be **Thursday, October 24th @ 10:30 am at the Duncan Bridge Center.**

Submitted by: Barb Wegener, Secretary