

DRAFT (unapproved) for reading at 2014 meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

San Luis Obispo Unit 540

January 3, 2013

The meeting was opened at 12:25 PM by Unit President Gina Kirk. The minutes of the annual meeting of January 10, 2012 were read by Unit Secretary Charles Davis. A motion to accept them was made by Toni Gold and seconded by Barbara Hardin, and was passed unanimously by the members in attendance.

Unit Treasurer Pat Hallock then gave her annual report. At the beginning of 2012, the Unit had a balance of \$5,688.33 in the bank, \$2,592.87 in its checking account and \$3,373.84 in its savings account. At the end of 2012, after generating \$5,926.38 in revenue and having expenses of \$7,204.76, the bank account totaled \$4,688.33. The checking account balance was \$1,314.49 and the savings account balance remained the same as the prior year: \$3,373.84. A motion was made by Pat Orlando to accept the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Bill Ringbom; it was passed unanimously by the members in attendance.

Election: There were four vacancies on the Board. Gina Kirk and Pat Hallock decided to run again for positions on the board. The positions of retiring Board members George Sheffield and Pat Orlando were available for new candidates: Bill Donovan and Doris Dunn. No further nominations were made by the members present. Torre Houlgate-West made a motion to accept the four candidates comprising the candidate slate and the motion was seconded by Toni Gold. It was passed unanimously by the members in attendance.

Joining Gina Kirk, Pat Hallock, Bill Donovan and Doris Dunn for 2013 are continuing Board members Bill Ringbom, Bill Woodson, Louise Abbott, Fred Strong and Charles Davis.

President Gina Kirk offered the thanks of the Board for the dedicated service of George Sheffield and Pat Orlando and the two were acknowledged by the members in attendance.

Gina Kirk asked whether members would like to bring up any other business. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Bill Ringbom, seconded by Patricia Kowal, and approved by those in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Davis, Unit Secretary

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
January 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM, by President Gina Kirk. Present were Board members Bill Ringbom, Fred Strong, Louise Abbott, Bill Donovan, Doris Dunn, Pat Hallock and Charles Davis. Absent was board member Bill Woodson. Present in an observer status were retired board members George Sheffield and Pat Orlando

1. Open Meeting/Review Agenda. Gina opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda items and thanked George and Pat for their service to the Unit and their many contributions to the efficient management of the unit board.
2. Minutes of December Meeting. The minutes from the December 14 meeting were reviewed and approved by the board.
3. Financial Report. Pat Hallock reviewed the December Treasurer's Report, showing an ending balance of \$4688.33, \$1314.49 in the checking account and \$3373.84 in the savings account. Bill Ringbom recommended a change for the future in accounting for Sectional Tournament expenses incurred in the year prior to the tournament occurring and Pat concurred.
4. Welcome of New Board Members and Election of Officers. Gina welcomed newly elected board members Bill Donovan and Doris Dunn. After a brief discussion the following slate of officers for 2013 was proposed, voted on, and agreed to by the board: President---Gina Kirk; Vice President---Fred Strong; Secretary---Charles Davis; Treasurer---Pat Hallock; Tournament Chairperson---Doris Dunn. Bill Donovan was selected to assume George Sheffield's additional duties of catering and supplies chairperson.
5. Old Business.
  - A. Annual Meeting. Charles agreed to send copies of the approved minutes from the January 2012 Annual Meeting to each of the SLO County Club Managers.
  - B. 2013 Sectional Tournament Status. Gina led a lengthy discussion on the duties and responsibilities of each of the board members for the upcoming Sectional Tournament. It was agreed to continue the planning discussions at a special meeting to be held on February 1, 2013 at 11:30 AM (subsequently cancelled and rescheduled for February 8, 2013 at 11:30 AM).
  - C. Bridge Lessons. Gina announced she was still awaiting Torre's proposal.
  - D. Mentoring. Gina announced that Leda had submitted to her an outline of her proposal to handle the program in 2013 and that the mentoring program was in good hands.
6. New Business
  - A. Unit Game Sanctions. Gina announced that the sanction was received for the game on January 19.
  - B. Club Activities. No significant activities were reported at any of the clubs.

7. Next Board Meeting. As the special board meeting was cancelled, the next scheduled board meeting will be on February 8 at 11:30 AM. It will focus on finalizing all plans for the upcoming Sectional Tournament.
8. Adjourn. Gina adjourned the meeting at 12:25 PM.

NOTE: Items 5B and 7 were amended after the January meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
February 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 AM, by President Gina Kirk. Present were Board members Bill Ringbom, Fred Strong, Louise Abbott, Bill Donovan, Doris Dunn, Pat Hallock and Charles Davis. Absent was board member Bill Woodson. Present in an observer status was retired board member George Sheffield; newly appointed board member Bob Clark joined the meeting at 11:50 AM.

1. Open Meeting/Review Agenda. Gina opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda items and requested that the board take up Agenda item 5a immediately after the minutes from last meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved, so the board could vote on a replacement for resigning member Bill Woodson. The board agreed.
2. Minutes of January Meeting. The minutes from the January 4, 2013 meeting were reviewed by the board. Since the board did not convene in a special meeting on February 1, 2013 as planned, Bill Ringbom asked that the January minutes be amended to reflect this change of plan. The board agreed and the amended minutes were approved.
3. Financial Report. Pat Hallock announced that the December Treasurer's Report, contained a \$33 error, and provided an amended report reflecting the additional income. Bill Ringbom asked Charles to ensure the Unit Annual Meeting's minutes were amended to revise our ending financial report. Pat then reviewed the January report showing an ending balance of \$4838.48, \$1347.49 in the checking account and \$3374.27 in the savings account.
4. Old Business
  - a. 2013 Sectional Tournament Status. Gina and the rest of the board spent the bulk of the meeting reviewing, item by item, the various responsibilities of the board members for all three days of the tournament. Bill Ringbom proposed and the board agreed that food purchases for the 2014 Tournament would be centralized, as opposed to the various clubs each organizing purchases for a day.
  - b. Bridge Lessons. Gina updated her previous briefing of the board, advising that Torre Houlgate-West was still looking for a venue for her lessons.
  - c. Mentoring. Gina advised that based on the feedback she had received the program was going well. Bill Ringbom advised he was still awaiting email addresses for the ones who had signed up for the online sessions.
5. New Business
  - a. Appointment to Fill Bill Woodson's Unexpired Term on the Board. Gina advised the board that Bill Woodson had submitted his resignation and the board discussed a replacement for him. Gina proposed Unit 540 member Bob Clark, who the board subsequently approved to fill the remainder of Bill's term. Bob attended the remainder of the board's meeting in his new capacity.

- b. Club Activities. Arroyo Grande---Doris Dunn assumed responsibility for providing the board club updates and announced that Jim Solomon would be replacing Barbara Hardin as director for the Thursday game. Morro Bay--- Louise Abbott advised that Bill Donovan had agreed to direct the Monday game and Jim Solomon the Tuesday game. Paso Robles---Fred Strong advised that there were no new issues. San Luis Obispo---Bill Ringbom advised that the club was voting that day to allow the timer to be loaned to Arroyo Grande for the upcoming Sectional Tournament.
6. Next Meeting. Gina announced that our next meeting would be on Friday, March 8, 2013 at 11:30 AM.
7. Adjourn. Gina adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
March 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM, by President Gina Kirk. Present were Board members Bill Ringbom, Fred Strong, Louise Abbott, Doris Dunn, Pat Hallock and Charles Davis. Absent were board members Bill Donovan and Bob Clark. Present in an observer status was retired board member George Sheffield.

1. Open Meeting/Review Agenda. Gina opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda items and announced that the bulk of the meeting would involve a review of February's Sectional Tournament.
2. Minutes of February Meeting. The minutes from the February, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved by the board.
3. Financial Report. Pat Hallock reviewed the February Treasurer's Report, highlighting the income and expenses from the Sectional Tournament. She advised that not all of the bills had yet been submitted and paid, but that February's income so far had exceeded expenses by \$3892.16. Ending numbers for February show a checking account balance of \$5356.40 and savings account of \$3374.27, and a total balance of **\$8730.67**.
4. Old Business
  - a. 2013 Sectional Tournament Evaluation. Gina led a lengthy discussion with the board on an evaluation of how the tournament did. Half of her list of items were covered, discussion on the rest was continued to the next board meeting in April. Key points of discussion: Director---Nancy did a very good job; Turn Out---173 tables for the weekend compared to 165.5 tables last year; Events---the Knock-Outs were poorly attended and the board decided to drop them next year; Start Times---new start times worked well; Venue---no issues with the building; Food---home cooked foods need to include ingredients so allergy sensitive people know what they contain; Sunday Pizza---next year cost needs to increase to \$5 and include a beverage; Coffee---no problems; Pre-dealing Boards---No final decision on this; Table Placards---need to be larger so they aren't covered up by the boards; Posting Results---Bill Ringbom will ensure next year they are posted on the website daily; Set Up and Clean Up---went well; Free Plays---continue with 2/session for those handling the refreshments.
5. New Business
  - a. Request by SLO Club for Liability Insurance Reimbursement. The board agreed to fund \$110 of the SLO Club's costs to cover the monthly Unit games.
  - b. Request by Morro Bay for Contribution for Equipment Purchase. The board reiterated its policy of funding capital purchases at 50% of their cost up \$400. **Bill Ringbom** will work with the SLO and Paso Robles clubs to pursue a joint purchase of **time clocks** and advise the board at the next meeting of their decision.

- c. March Unit Game-Awards. Gina and Doris will jointly handle this at the game on Saturday, March 9.
  - d. Website Updates. Our Unit website has outdated information on officers for the Unit, the Morro Bay, SLO and 5 Cities Clubs. Club managers are asked to send Bill a memo updating their data.
  - e. Phone/Email List Updates. After a discussion the board voted to not post these on the Unit Website, but that individuals needing that information should contact Louise Abbott, who will send it to them.
  - f. Director Reimbursement Policy. Board member Charles Davis advised he would not be seeking reimbursement. With new directors Jim Solomon, Leda Fields, and Bill Donovan the board felt new director candidates were not needed at this time. Fred Strong advised he would follow up with existing candidate **Marie Pope** to determine her interest in taking the exam.
  - g. Club Activities. Arroyo Grande---Doris had no new information; Morro Bay--- Louise announced she would be taking over the Club Manager position, assisted by Stu Baron on day to day activities. New officers would be elected on April 2; Paso Robles---Fred had no new information; SLO---Bill Ringbom had no new information.
6. Next Meeting. Gina announced that our next meeting would be on Friday, April 12, 2013 at 11:30 AM.
7. Adjourn. Gina adjourned the meeting at 12:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Minutes of Board Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
April 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM, by Board President Gina Kirk. Present were Board members: Bill Ringbom, Fred Strong, Pat Hallock, Louise Abbott, George Sheffield, Doris Dunn, and Bob Clark.

**Consent Calendar:**

Minutes of the Feb were approved with the correction of a bank balance of \$8,730.67.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Pat Hallock reviewed with the Board the financial report, reflecting the Unit's bank balance of \$8,491.68. Financial report was accepted.

**Old Business:**

**2013 Sectional Tournament Review:** We will discuss further at the next meeting.

**2014 Sectional Tournament Planning Update:**

Doris reports that the facility in Arroyo Grande has already been reserved. She will register the event with ACBL and request Nancy Boyd as our tournament director. Event will be held Feb 21-23.

**Timers for Morro Bay, Arroyo Grande and Paso Robles:**

Bill has received them and distributed them at the meeting. Thanks, Bill!

**Status of Program for Stipends to Attend ACBL Director Course:**

Marie Pope has decided not to pursue this course. David O'Leary from Paso may be interested in being a director.

**New Business:**

**Election of Officers:**

Gina Kirk has need to withdraw as board president, but fortunately will remain on the board. Fred Strong was elected President. Bob Clark will serve as Vice President.

**Web Updates:**

Louise will send Bill an electronic copy of the updated phone list. Carol Moss will update the Morro Bay page after elections there next week. Bill will update the Unit board information.

**Updated Phone List:**

Louise handed out updated Unit phone lists to those present.



**ACBL Quip:**

According to the QUIP report we are having member retention below the ACBL norm. Fred wants to discuss this at our next meeting.

**Club Activities:**

**Arroyo Grande** – Bill Ringbom: No news.

**Morro Bay** – Elections were held for board positions. Officers will be selected next week.

**Paso Robles** – Fred Strong: No news.

**San Luis Obispo** – Bill Ringbom: No news.

Meeting was adjourned at: 12:20.

Next board meeting will be May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Abbott, substituting  
for the most honorable Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Minutes of Board Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
May 10, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM, by Board President Fred Strong. Present were Board members: Bill Ringbom, Louise Abbott, Bill Donovan, Doris Dunn, and Bob Clark.

**Consent Calendar:**

Minutes of the April meeting were approved with the correction that Bill Donovan was at the meeting.

Financial Reports: report deferred to next meeting due to absence of treasurer. Pat was requested to brief the board on our overall financials.... Where does our money come from? The board also requested a financial report on the last sectional.

**Old Business:**

**2014 Sectional Tournament Planning Update:**

Doris will request that we be allowed to hire a local assistant director. The facility is being remodeled and this may impact our game. Doris and Bill R will attend planning meetings to try to influence the floorplan.

**New Member Recruitment Planning:**

We discussed current programs within the unit to attract and encourage novice players. Louise was asked to collect a complete list for the next meeting. We discussed advertising options. We need to ask our clubs what help they want from us.

**Intra Club Game:**

We can take a unit game and convert it to a multi site game. Mike Shipsey is pursuing this.

**New Business:**

**May Unit Game:**

We currently have both the Unit Secretary and the Director sending emails with different information to different email lists. Email should come from the Secretary. The Director should have the ability to flight the game as they see best. The novice game could be a 99er or 199er as is appropriate.

Meeting was adjourned at: 12:20.

Next board meeting will be June 14th at 11:30. Bob Clark will chair.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Abbott

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
June 14, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM, by Vice President Bob Clark. Present were Board members Bill Donovan, Gina Kirk, Louise Abbott, Doris Dunn, Pat Hallock and Charles Davis. Absent were board members Bill Ringbom and Fred Strong.

Open Meeting/Review Agenda. Bob Clark opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda items.

1. Minutes of May Meeting. The minutes from the May 10, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved by the board.
2. Financial Report. Pat Hallock reviewed both the April and May Treasurer's Reports, highlighting our \$872.84 reimbursement from the ACBL based on our Unit membership numbers. Ending numbers for May show a checking account balance of \$5326.08 and savings account of \$3374.687, and a total balance of \$8700.76
3. Old Business
  - a. 2014 Sectional Tournament Evaluation. Doris advised that Nancy Boyd will return as our tournament director; the board reaffirmed it would prefer not to have an assistant director from outside; we would like to use local resources instead.
  - b. Sectional Financial Report. Pat Hallock led a lengthy discussion of the statistics from our Sectional this year, reviewing 10 pages of data and analysis, reflecting the health and strength of this annual event for our Unit.
  - c. Income Sources Report. Pat further evaluated how we get money from the Sectional Tournament, Unit games, and the ACBL reimbursement.
  - d. New Member Recruitment Planning---Bob advised the board he was still doing research on this and getting information from the ACBL.
4. New Business
  - a. Unit Awards---Certificates for ACBL achievements (Life Master, Bronze, Silver, Gold, etc. Bob proposed that the Unit recognize these achievements by our members. After a short discussion, this item was tabled.
  - b. Funding new beginner games/advertising for the clubs. Bob led a short discussion on these---work is still in progress.
  - c. District-Wide Election. Charles advised the board that he and Fred had received an email from ACBL announcing the district elections this summer. Charles gave the ACBL an updated list of board members so each would be eligible to vote.
  - d. Club Activities. Arroyo Grande---Laurie Hays is assuming responsibility for snacks; Morro Bay---Louise updated the board on classes being offered. ; Paso Robles---No new information; SLO---No new information.
5. Next Meeting. Bob announced that our next meeting would be on Friday, July 12, 2013 at 11:30 AM.
6. Adjourn. Bob adjourned the meeting at 12:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
July 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 AM, by President Fred Strong. Present were Board members Bill Donovan, Gina Kirk, Louise Abbott, Pat Hallock, Bill Ringbom and Charles Davis. Absent were board members Doris Dunn and Bob Clark.

Open Meeting/Review Agenda. Fred Strong opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda items.

1. Minutes of May Meeting. The minutes from the June 14, 2013 meeting were reviewed, and a change was made to the section on the 2014 Sectional Tournament, stating that the board preferred not to have an outside assistant director, but would rather use qualified local resources instead. The minutes were then approved by the board.
2. Financial Report. Pat Hallock reviewed the June Treasurer's Report, noting that the Unit had \$5643.47 in its checking account and \$3375.10 in its saving account, for a total balance of \$9018.57. After discussion, Pat amended the report to change \$218.33 from income to a capital expense reimbursement. The change was for accounting purposes only and did not impact the bottom line balances.
3. Old Business
  - a. 2014 Sectional Tournament Update. No new information was presented.
  - b. Member Recruitment and Retention Planning---In Bob Clark's absence there was no new information.
  - c. Funding new beginner games/advertising for the clubs. No new information.
4. New Business
  - a. District change for possible regional and better recognition. Fred Strong introduced visitor Karen Velie and led a lengthy discussion on a possible change in District membership from District 22 to District 21 and opportunities for a closer Regional to San Luis Obispo county. No action was taken on the information presented, but the board agreed to continue to evaluate our options.
  - b. Club Activities. Arroyo Grande---no new information; Morro Bay---no new information; Paso Robles---no new information; SLO---no new information.
5. Next Meeting. Fred announced that our next meeting would be on Friday, August 9, 2013 at 11:30 AM.
6. Adjourn. Fred adjourned the meeting at 12:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
August 9, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:450 AM, by Board President Fred Strong. Present were Board members: Bill Ringbom, Pat Hallock, Louise Abbott, Gina Kirk, Bob Clark, and Doris Dunn  
Guests: Gary Yant, Jim Solomon, Karen Velie

**Consent Calendar:**

Minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Financial Reports: Unit and Tournament. Treasurer Pat Hallock reviewed with the Board the July 2013 financial report, reflecting the Unit's bank balance of \$8,288.62. The financial report was accepted. Pat will present June's report at our next meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Attracting new and beginner players:**

Gary Yant had sent out an email with several ideas on how to increase the size of our 99er/199er games. Doris will work with Gina to help arrange partnerships and will personally contact our beginner players. The board reconfirmed its prior decision that the Director of the game can make a decision at game time whether to have a 99er or a 199er section.

The board did not think that giving financial incentives, such as free plays, would be encourage attendance.

**Changing from District 22 to 21:**

Fred, Gina, and Gary Yant each presented written documents on the issues involved (attached to the end of these minutes). Fred would like to separate the discussion into two separated issues: changing districts and hosting a regional. Lengthy discussion was held. Some members have been contacted to sign a petition to support changing districts. It was agreed that we need to show leadership on these issues. A sub-committee will prepare a document for board review detailing the issues involved and showing pros and cons of our options. Members will be: Fred Strong, Gina Kirk, Gary Yant, and Karen Velie. After board approval, this document will be distributed to our members.

**Club Activities:** No updates

Meeting was adjourned at: 12:28.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Abbott, substituting  
for the most honorable Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
September 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 AM, by President Fred Strong. Present were Board members Bill Donovan, Gina Kirk, Pat Hallock, Bill Ringbom, Doris Dunn, Bob Clark and Charles Davis. Absent was board member Louise Abbott. Attending also was guest Gary Yant.

Open Meeting/Review Agenda. Fred Strong opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda items.

1. Minutes of August Meeting. The draft minutes from the August 9, 2013 meeting were reviewed, and a change was made to the section on the potential of changing districts from 22 to 21. The minutes were then approved by the board.
2. Financial Report. Pat Hallock reviewed the August Treasurer's Report, noting that the Unit had \$4913.52 in its checking account and \$3375.10 in its saving account, for a total balance of \$8391.09. After discussion, it was agreed to finalize the change of \$218.33 from income to a capital expense reimbursement during our October meeting, which will involve amending the June Treasurer's report. The change is for accounting purposes only and will not impact the bottom line balances.
3. Old Business
  - a. Change of District---Committee Report (facts, pros and cons). Fred Strong advised that the Committee, comprised of himself, board member Gina Kirk and Gary Yant had not prepared a report for this meeting inasmuch as the current petition had been withdrawn by its sponsors due to its failure to be in compliance with ACBL rules and procedures. After discussion it was agreed that the Committee would report to the Board in October whether or not there is an active petition. Bill Donovan asked for a clarification on the rules governing the establishment of district boundaries and Bob Clark asked for further discussion around the issue of whether Unit 540 wants/needs its own Regional.
4. New Business
  - a. In and Out Report significance. Gina Kirk explained what the report contains and how it allows us to monitor Unit membership and status changes. Gina and Doris Dunn are working on building up novice game attendance by using the Report to identify and outreach those Unit members with 0-199 MPs.
5. Club Activities:
  - a. Arroyo Grande – Doris briefed the Board on a BBQ open to all unit members at the club on October 19.
  - b. Morro Bay – In Louise's absence there was no report.
  - c. Paso Robles – Fred reported their senior center was under new management and was considering offering rubber and duplicate bridge lessons and that its rooms had soundproofing upgrades.

- d. San Luis Obispo – Bill Ringbom briefed the Board on the upcoming instant matchpoint game on October 2, which will offer gold points---the only opportunity members will have to earn them at the local level. They're hoping for up to 21 tables.
6. Next Meeting. Fred announced that our next meeting would be on Friday, October 11, 2013 at 11:30 AM.
7. Adjourn. Fred adjourned the meeting at 12:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary



Minutes of Regular Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
October 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM, by President Fred Strong. Present were Board members Bill Donovan, Pat Hallock, Bill Ringbom, Doris Dunn, Louise Abbott and Charles Davis. Absent were board members Gina Kirk and Bob Clark. Attending also was guest Gary Yant.

Open Meeting/Review Agenda. Fred Strong opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda items, and provided several handouts on ACBL rules and regulations both at the Unit and National levels. He also asked if there were any agenda item changes. There were none.

1. Minutes of September Meeting. The draft minutes from the September 13, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. Financial Report. Pat Hallock reviewed the September Treasurer's Report, noting that the Unit had \$5032.43 in its checking account and \$3375.36 in its savings account, for a total balance of \$8407.79. She then handed out the revised June Treasurer's Report reflecting the Board's wish to change an entry of \$218.33 from income to a Capital Expense Reimbursement. Both reports were then approved.
3. Old Business
  - a. 2014 Sectional Report and Announcements. Doris Dunn briefed the Board on a number of issues regarding the upcoming Sectional Tournament in February 2014, including the fact that Nancy Boyd would bring her own Assistant Director as well as electronic scoring devices for our use, as she did last year. The Board held off discussion of the food for another meeting.
  - b. Use of the Unit Phone List. The board discussed a variety of different options and determined that the list would continue to contain all phone numbers of Unit 540 members as well as outsiders who play regularly at our clubs or who play when they live here part time. Those asking to be removed from the list would be accommodated.
  - c. Gina Kirk letter. Fred advised the Board that Gina Kirk wished to resign her position in January, but would work with the Board on its preparation for the Unit's Sectional Tournament the following month.
  - d. Scheduling the next Unit 540 Annual Meeting. Fred Strong advised he would like to schedule it on January 2, 2014. A brief discussion ensued regarding a conflict with the Monterey Regional Tournament and Fred advised he would determine if a change in dates was possible.
  - e. Appoint a Nominating Committee. Fred handed out a list of Board Members whose terms were expiring and discussed a replacement for the remainder of Gina Kirk's term. Fred also asked the Board members whose terms were expiring to let him know if they wished to seek re-

election, and asked for volunteers for a Nominating Committee should we need one. We will finalize the discussion at our next Board meeting.

- f. Change of District Committee Report---Fred advised the Board that Gary Yant would provide an oral report to the Board for the Committee's findings. A written report can be obtained from Fred if Board members so desire. Gary Yant began with a status report on the petition, advising that the organizers failed to follow ACBL regulations before circulating it. They then withdrew the petition and are in the process of making the changes ACBL requested. They should be ready to redistribute the petition in the next 30 days. Gary followed with a review of the Committee's recommendations/findings in response to the issues raised by the Board.
    - (1) Facts and Figures of Districts 21 and 22---Gary gave an overview of each, highlighting the differences in some policies and procedures as well as in size and geography.
    - (2) The possibility of creating a new District and hosting a Regional. Gary emphasized the enormity of this task and advised the Board that a separate committee should be established to determine the desirability of pursuing this if and only if the Unit wanted to go in this direction.
    - (3) The pros and cons of Unit 540 changing districts from 22 to 21. Gary mentioned several, including the possibility of our membership in District 21 qualifying them for an additional Regional Tournament. He also explained we would lose out on our existing relationships within District 22 and would have to send representatives to attend District 21 meetings. The committee recommended we take no further action as a Unit Board on this issue until and unless a petition to change actually is circulated. If it is, AND at least 50% of our members sign it, the Unit Board will be asked by the ACBL to offer an opinion on the move, as will the leadership of both District 21 and District 22. The ACBL will then make the final determination. The Board thanked Gary and the rest of the committee for their work.
4. New Business
    - a. Unit Game Preparations. Fred Strong addressed a letter of concern from Gina Kirk and the Board agreed that by no later than its Unit Board meeting it would be decided who would be responsible for opening the SLO Senior Center for the Unit game the next day.
  5. Club Activities
    - a. Arroyo Grande---Doris briefed the Board that the Women's Club building would be extensively remodeled immediately after the February Sectional and that they would need to find new quarters for the 5 Cities games for six to eight months.
    - b. Morro Bay---Louise briefed the Board on a charity opportunity; no position was taken on it.
    - c. Paso Robles---No report
    - d. SLO---Bill Ringbom briefed the Board on the upcoming Swiss Teams games in SLO: Monday, October 14 being a Pro-Am game and Friday, October 25 being a regular Swiss Teams game.

6. Next Meeting---Fred announced the next Board meeting would be on Friday, November 8, 2013 at 11:30 AM
7. Adjourn---Fred adjourned the meeting at 12:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
November 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM, by Vice President Bob Clark. Present were Board members, Pat Hallock, Bill Ringbom, Doris Dunn, Louise Abbott, Gina Kirk and Charles Davis. Absent were board members Fred Strong and Bill Donovan.

1. Roll Call for Quorum. Bob Clark called roll and ascertained we had a quorum.
2. Review and Approval of October minutes. Charles Davis distributed copies of the draft of October's minutes. Gina Kirk had one correction. That completed, the minutes were approved by the Board.
3. Review and Approval of the Treasurer's Report. Pat Hallock reviewed the October Treasurer's Report, noting that the Unit had \$4829.23 in its checking account and \$3375.36 in its savings account, for a total balance of \$8204.59. There was a brief discussion of monthly Unit Game costs and then the report was approved.
4. Update on Preparations for the February Sectional Tournament. Doris Dunn briefed the Board on the current status of preparations. Gina Kirk will coordinate the handling of the food with local clubs. Doris and Gina will keep the Board briefed in its December and January meetings as to progress and the delegation of duties to key people.
5. Update on Board Nominations and Elections. Gina Kirk and Pat Hallock have been asked by President Fred Strong to comprise a Nominating Committee for recommending a slate of candidates for the Board's vacant positions in 2014. Five positions are up for election: Fred Strong, Bill Ringbom, Charles Davis, Louise Abbott and the position formerly held by Bill Woodson but now occupied by Bob Clark. Fred, Bill and Charles all indicated they wished to stand for re-election. Louise (at the present time) and Bob indicated that they would not. Gina discussed several possible names for replacements and asked other Board members to make recommendations as well. She and Pat will update the Board on the selection process at our next meeting. They will also give a recommendation on a candidate to fill the remaining term of Gina Kirk, who will be leaving the Board early next year.
6. New Business
  - a. Distribution of Electronic Reports. Gina and Charles briefed the Board on three reports provided by the ACBL to the Unit: The annual Active Membership List, the monthly In and Out Report, and the Quip Report. A discussion then ensued regarding the information contained in each report and the distribution currently made of them. Gina advised that she would prepare recommendations to the Board in its December meeting on how to handle these reports in the future.
  - b. Scheduling of the January Unit Board Meeting. Gina Kirk led a discussion regarding our meeting date in light of the fact that the Unit's Annual Meeting had been delayed---at the Board's request---until after the Monterey Regional. Fred Strong was able to reserve space in the Paso

Club on Saturday January 11, 2014 for this meeting. On a one-time basis, the Unit's monthly Unit Game will be moved to Paso Robles to coincide with the Annual Meeting. Since the Board's new members won't be known until after that meeting, she suggested postponing the Unit Board meeting until January 17, 2014, so the Board could elect its new officers. The Board approved this recommendation.

- c. Unit Recommendation on Possible Petition for a Change in Districts. Bob Clark led a short discussion on Board action on this issue. The Board reaffirmed its previous position---contained in last month's minutes---that it would withhold further comment until and unless such a petition actually is distributed.
  - d. Unit Game Notification Flyer. The Board had a short discussion on whether to continue requesting novice attendees pre-alert the director of their intention of coming so a determination could be made in advance if there were sufficient interest in a game. The Board decided that this pre-alert would no longer be requested.
7. Club Reports
- a. SLO – Bill Ringbom advised the Board that the upcoming week would be Janice Vivrette week in the SLO Club. In light of the other Club's scheduled holiday parties, SLO would reconsider its own date.
  - b. Arroyo Grande – Doris Dunn advised that the holiday lunch would take place on December 12. Costs for the lunch and play will be \$10.
  - c. Morro Bay – Louise Abbott advised their holiday party would be on December 3.
  - d. Paso Robles – In Fred's absence, there was no update.
8. Next Unit Board Meeting. Bob Clark announced our next meeting would be on Friday, December 13, 2013 in the SLO Senior Center at 11:30 AM.
9. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by Bob at 12:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Minutes of Board Meeting  
San Luis Obispo Unit 540  
Dec 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM, by Board President Fred Strong. Present were Board members: Bill Ringbom, Pat Hallock, Louise Abbott, Gina Kirk, Bob Clark, Doris Dunn

**Consent Calendar:**

Minutes of the Nov meeting were approved.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Pat Hallock reviewed with the Board the Nov 2013 financial report, reflecting the Unit's bank balance of \$8,289.12. Financial report was accepted.

**Old Business:**

**Nomination Committee Report:** Gina presented nice bio's for all candidates. Charles Davis, Bill Ringbom and Fred Strong are willing to serve another term. Torre Houlgate-West and Bob Karriker are willing to run for the two remaining open positions. The election will be held at the Jan 11 Unit game to be held in Paso Robles at 12:20. Fred will print up ballots if needed for write-in candidates. Gina announced that she decided not to complete the remaining year of her term on the board. After discussion the board unanimously agreed to appoint Bud Zeuschner to fill her position.

**Annual Awards:** Fred will order the medals.

**Sectional Updates:** Doris reviewed the list of duties for the sectional. There was a lengthy discussion on the handling of food. The board voted to double its contribution for food to \$300. All of the money will be given to Doris who will purchase some food for each day. Each unit should provide a food chair who will encourage contributions of home-made goodies and help in the kitchen on their designated day. Doris will communicate with the food chairs so they know what she is providing.

**New Business:**

**2014 Unit Games:** April Unit game will be a STaC game.

**Annual Awards:** Fred will order the medals.

**Unit ACBL Business:** Gina presented several interesting documents.

- She is currently our "Unit Electronic Chair" and will need to be replaced.
- She presented a chart showing the cost of each table for different types of games.
- She shared the 2014 calendar from 5 Cities on which they included section rating and cost per table.

**Club Activities:**

- Doris requested that each club get her their Unit Championship game requests for 2014.
- Morro Bay will have games over the holidays except for Christmas Eve.
- SLO facility will be closed Dec 21 through Jan 3.

Meeting was adjourned at: 12:26.

Next meeting will be Jan 17<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Abbott, substituting  
for the most honorable Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Note from Fred Strong:

District 21 meetings:

Sacramento, Bay Area, Santa Clara & Monterey when scheduled

All units have two members on the Board + the President when present. 8 member Executive Committee, national director, two alternates, and a President.

Tournament Directors are: Dianne Barton-Pine, Nancy Boyd and Matt Smith

Western Conference rep. is Marion Robertson

District 22 meetings:

Riverside, San Diego, Irvine, Ventura and Rancho Mirage (in 2013 District 22 lost its Riverside Regional)

District Board is 9 members: the National Rep/Western Conference rep.

Plus two from each of four regions (elected by the units within the region).

Officers shall be elected from the Board members.



Date: August 9, 2013  
To: Unit 540 Board of Directors  
From: Gina Kirk  
Subject: Our District

Last month our board considered a proposal by Karen Velie to circulate a petition among our members inviting them to vote to move our unit from District 22 to District 21. While Ms. Velie made clear that her primary purpose was to place our unit in a position to host a regional tournament in 2014, the petition cited additional arguments for switching districts.

The board indicated its support for the idea of hosting a regional tournament and its desire to develop the arguments or "talking points" in any petition for change of District.

The petition presented at the July 2013 unit board meeting contains several inaccuracies:

1. It is difficult for our unit members to attend District 22 tournaments and board meetings, with meetings four to seven hours away in drive time. Attending District 21 tournaments and meetings would take about half the time.
2. Calls to District 22 board members asking for a possible regional tournament have not been positively responded to.
3. For several years, Unit 540 members have discussed possibilities for creating a new district with several other units,

Absent from the written petition, but offered when petitions were presented for signatures were representations regarding the location and features of a regional tournament in our county.

Several players have approached me with questions amounting to "Where's the board in this?" I have also heard complaints about the petitioning process and comments and questions regarding the proposed tournament.

I would like the board to make a statement to our member regarding this matter and to offer leadership if the change-of-district process is to continue.

	District 22	District 21
District membership	7,002 (10 <sup>th</sup> largest in ACBL)	8,787 (5 <sup>th</sup> largest in ACBL)
District HQ	None	None
# Units	25	22
Distance SLO to farthest regional tournaments	309 mi, - 5 hrs. (San Diego) 308 mi – 4 hrs. 59 min (Rancho Mirage)	290 mi – 4 hrs. 27 min (Sacramento) 424 mi – 6 hrs. 29 min (Reno)
Distance SLO to nearest regional tournament	128 mi – 2 hrs. 13 min (Ventura)	143 mi – 2 hrs. 18 min (Monterey)
Unit representation	Through 2 reps for Area I (Lompoc/Vandenberg, San Luis Obispo, Southern Gold Coast, Santa Barbara, Bakersfield, Santa Maria, Ventura, Visalia) Teri Atkinson and Warren Cederborg	2 members from each unit's boards attend District meetings
Communication with Units	Monthly Western Conference Contract <i>Bridge Forum</i> (District 22 edition)	Monthly Western Conference Contract <i>Bridge Forum</i> (District 21 edition)

Note from Gary Yant:

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

MEMO RE:

- 1) Unit 540 changing to District 21
- 2) Unit 540 considering a Regional

Issues:

- A) Unit 540 (Unit) is being asked to consider switching from District 22 to District 21.
- B) Upon switching, there would then be the possibility of having a regional in the SLO area.

## A) Switching Districts

Pros:

- 1) Allows possibility of hosting a regional.
- 2) Possibly more district support to our unit (training, guest speakers, etc).

Cons:

- 1) Losing relationships with supporters and clubs (Warren Cederborg, Teri Atkinson, Santa Maria, Lompoc, Santa Barbara). Note: The *Forum* will no longer reflect "news" from these clubs.
- 2) Leaving smooth relationship with one district and entering unknown relationship with another district.
- 3) Boundaries more out of whack (Visalia and Bishop [extending all the way to southern tip of Lake Tahoe] are in District 22).
- 4) Required attendance at District board meetings.
- 5) Possibly rushing into this without a more thorough review.

## B) Regional in SLO Area

### Pros:

- 1) Possibility of recruiting more new bridge members.
- 2) Economic benefit to community (motels, restaurants, retail, etc.)
- 3) Access to a regional by local players who normally don't travel.
- 4) Possibly increase bridge interest and thus increased attendance at sectional and local clubs.
- 5) Karen Velie's access to the media for promotion of regional, sectional and bridge in general.

### Cons:

- 1) Multi hotels and playing site could be a negative (anybody attended a multi hotel/playing site regional event?).
- 2) Possibly decreased attendance at sectional as some players may only travel once annually to play in SLO (we have great support from Fresno, Visalia, and Bakersfield).
- 3) Possibly rushing into this without a more thorough review.
- 4) New regional might take 2-4 years to become profitable. Does ACBL, District 21, Unit board, or Karen Velie have the staying power?