

WBL Board Minutes

December 6, 2023

All Board members attended. Brad Theurer (Tournament Chair) and Ted Ying (Club Manager) also attended.

Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the October meeting. The Board decided that the minutes should include a record of email and similar deliberations that occur between meetings and decisions that result from those deliberations.

Club Manager: The Board expressed its appreciation of Ted Ying's excellent service as club manager and his leadership in efforts to rebuild local bridge in the challenging post-pandemic environment. The Board also thanked Lloyd Rawley for his contributions as a Board member and his willingness to serve as club manager after Ted steps down. The Board elected Melanie Manfield to fill the vacancy left by Lloyd's resignation from the Board and assumption of the club manager position. At the close of the meeting, the Board went into executive session to decide on compensation for Lloyd in his new role and rewards for Ted in light of his long and exemplary service. The Board decided to give Ted free plays for an indefinite period and to review this decision periodically.

Unit Game: Ted plans to attend the unit game in January to assist Lloyd in his initial sessions as director for the game; Hank Meyer will provide similar assistance on December 28. Rebecca Allen will bring some of her novice bridge students to the unit game to provide a lesson and give them a taste of duplicate bridge.

Unit game attendance is stable and continues to need improvement. Attendance in the open flight is better than that in flight B. Bob I. estimated that at the current attendance level the unit game will lose about \$7000 annually, but cautioned that changes in ACBL policies for providing funds to units might increase the amount lost.

The Board continued to discuss the possibility that moving the unit game to a site that was further west and outside the Beltway might improve attendance and reduce costs.

Sectionals: Carole will be abroad during the January sectional; during the tournament, Kim will take on the functions she normally performs. The tournament schedule includes no significant innovations, and its similarity to schedules in recent sectionals should help make it run smoothly.

Carole will work with the tournament committee to reserve dates for sectionals in 2025.

Growing the Game Committee: The committee hopes to coordinate with bridge teachers to encourage new players to try duplicate bridge. The committee is considering ways to mentor new and relatively unsophisticated players and enabling them to find compatible partners.

Historian: Peter Boyd wants to turn his responsibilities over to a new historian and donate the historical documents he has accumulated. Barb Devaney and Alex Stille will work with Peter on the transition to a new historian.

ACBL Lapsed Members Initiative: The Board discussed this initiative, which adjusts ACBL payments to units based on efforts to retain members, success in doing so, and success in recruiting new members. Several Board members, including Hadi, Ron, Alex S., Melanie, Kim, and Bob I., attended online meetings with ACBL Executive Director Bronia Jenkins to learn more about the initiative and its strategies for creating incentives to maintain and increase membership. Several Board Members have begun contacting lapsed members and encouraging them to renew membership and participation.

Next meeting: The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 24 at 7:30. Margot Hennings, the new ACBL President and Board representative from our Region, will attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell