

ACBL UNIT 508 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes August 6, 2024

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Carolyn Farren on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 4:30 PM at the home of Pat Irwin, San Rafael, CA.

Present: Cindy Blum, Shirley Ehrlich, Pat Irwin, Carolyn Farren, Elaine Kitano, Steve Levinson, Judy Leedy (Guest)

Absent: Melanie Haddad

Minutes: July 17 meeting minutes not available yet. Approval pending until the next Board meeting.

Production of the Blast and Unit Website: Judy Leedy (current Blast editor) described what was required to produce the Blast. This included knowledge and working ability of Word and Mail Chimp, checking the ACBL calendar for local tournaments to include in Blast, contacting the Marin Unit directors for any info they want to include, and timely sending out to all subscribers. Judy as well as the rest of the Board members will need to expediate finding a Blast production replacement for Judy. There was discussion about continuing to send the Blast to subscribers in their email as opposed to just putting it on the Marin Unit website. The Board decided it was essential that we have a correct, reliable, and up to the minute website. We need to talk to Paulette and Nancy regarding this.

Membership Directory: The Marin Unit last produced a hardcopy Membership Directory in 2019 and sold it for \$2 each. Since that time, people have moved, died, or have become new members. Henry Kingdon has requested that the Board produce an updated hardcopy directory for 2024. The printing costs for producing three hundred directories in 2019 were about \$170. Pat Irwin agreed to further pursue with Henry the need for the updated directory and what should be included.

Finances: Steve provided a packet of reports including a template for the 2025 Budget/Expense, the 2024 Actual Budget/Expense, the Annual Financial Net Revenue/Loss Major Event Summary, Membership Reimbursement, Vendor List (with ongoing fixed costs), and Alcohol at Awards and Holiday Party. He indicated that we have roughly \$18,000 currently in the bank and at the rate we are spending versus revenue, the unit will run out of funds at some point in the future. We need to reduce expenses and increase revenue to remain financially solvent. Several suggestions were offered to reduce expenses including having only one director for the Sunday session of the 2025 Marin Sectional, a less expensive venue for the Marin Sectional, and charging table fees for the Awards and Holiday parties, and the necessity of serving food and drink at the Awards Party.

Face to Face Attendance: Preceding the Petaluma unit games the club has a speaker, often Tony Jackson, who gives a presentation on a timely topic. This talk is followed by lunch and then the unit game. The table fee for the game, \$12, includes the topic presentation and the lunch. This has seemed to increase attendance at the unit game. Shirley will check to see if he will be available to do the same for some of our games. If not, we could approach Peggy to give a pre-game bridge topic talk. Pat Irwin suggested that we try a Pro-Am to pair experienced players with less experienced players to attract people. It seemed to have been highly successful in the past. Shirley indicated that the big Dallas bridge club that runs the virtual BBO Band games has no face-to-face games. Steve will explore with Peggy about doing another virtual game and how she/we could

benefit from it.

Unit Games: There are no more unit games scheduled, excluding the Holiday Party, scheduled for the rest of 2024. Steve brought up trying one on a Saturday at TL. He will check TL availability and see if Peggy or Henry might be interested in running the game.

Education/Seminars: Education seminars from notable bridge experts have been widely popular in the past and is a prime source of revenue for the unit. A request to any board member or to find someone to add to the Board was made to serve as an education person to attract speakers.

Other Business: The next Board meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 3:45 PM at the Terra Linda Recreation Center, San Rafael CA.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.