

**ACBL UNIT 559
BOARD
MINUTES
October 7, 2024**

1. The Zoom meeting of the ACBL Unit 559 Board of Directors was called to Order by President Lisa Walker at 7 PM. Present were Kathy Cresto, Don Garner, Miriam Harrington, Sherry Hansen, Morris Jones, Patricia Luehrs, Angela Peters, Michael Rodrigues, and Lisa Walker. Board members Liza Billington and Gloria Rommel did not attend the meeting, Also present at the meeting was Roy Wilson, Webmaster.
2. The President asked for a motion that the minutes of the September 9, 2024 Board meeting prepared by Secretary Don Garner be approved. Miriam Harrington asked that these minutes reflect that she did not attend that meeting because she was unable to connect to the Zoom call and that change was made. Upon motion of Kathy Cresto, seconded by Angela Peters, these minutes prepared by the Secretary with the requested change added were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. No written financial report for the Unit as of October 7, 2024 was prepared and disseminated by Miriam Harrington to the Board prior to the meeting. Rather, her financial report was provided by her orally, as follows: (a) the Unit held two unit games and the Over/Under game since the last Board meeting; (b) the two unit games together generated a \$195 net profit; (c) the Over/Under game had a \$110 loss; and (d) with the resulting \$85 net profit from the three games the Unit has \$14,194.34 in the bank. The President noted that the “Under” players were each given a coupon for one free game play at the Pasadena Bridge Center and proposed that the Unit should reimburse the Center for any such coupons used by those players (Morris Jones reporting that 10 of these coupons have been used already). Upon motion by Don Garner and seconded by Miriam Harrington, the financial report and instruction to reimburse Pasadena Bridge Center for game coupons given to and used by the Under players were unanimously approved by the Board, with Morris Jones abstaining from the vote.
4. The meeting moved on to an extensive discussion concerning the conduct of the Over/Under game held on September 29, 2024 at Pasadena Bridge Club. At this game, 24 Over and 24 Under players participated. The general impression, from observations made at the event and reports from some “Under” players was that the event was disappointing and fell short of the intended goodwill fostering for the game of bridge. In particular, “Over” players need to be more carefully selected and indoctrinated as to

the underlying purposes for the event and their role in introducing “beginners” to competitive bridge play. The President will provide the Board with her written report concerning her during and post-game observations and discussions with participants. Roy Wilson will also provide the Board with his suggestions from his some 40 years of experience with Over/Under games. A decision concerning whether the Unit should have future Over/Under games was tabled for next year’s Board pending further consideration of the factors which can lead to success versus failure from holding such events.

5. The meeting next turned its attention to planning for the Unit’s December 15th Holiday Party and Unit Game at the Arcadia Community Center. The President received and sent to the Board a copy of a catering contract with Stonefire Grill for chicken and tri-tip entrees, vegetarian salad, accompanying side dishes, and brownies. Stonehouse will serve, clean-up, and pack-up leftover food for us. The Stonefire contractual charge for the food for 75 people is \$2,356.33 (about double of last year’s food cost). The President provided the Board with her analysis of the estimated total costs for the event aggregating \$3,051.33, consisting of expenses for the Arcadia Community Center, Director’s fee, ACBL sanction, coffee, water and drinks, and decorations. Estimating that 72 people will attend, this would result in a \$42.38 per person cost. At \$35 per person, we would collect \$2,520; at \$30 per person, we would collect \$2,160; and at \$25 we would collect \$1,800, in each such case needing to defray excess costs from the Unit’s available funds. After discussion, upon motion by Pat Luehrs and seconded by Sherry Hansen the Board authorized the President to sign the Stonefire Grill contract and decided that the per person cost for this event should be \$30. This would result in an anticipated loss of about \$891 on the event. The Board decided that the deadline for reservations for the Holiday Party will be December 5, 2024 and must be made through RSVP at the Pasadena Bridge Club. Payments for the reservations are to be made to Mojo or Zach at the Bridge Club by cash, check, or credit card.. Board members then discussed arrangements for tablecloths, decorations, and the like and other logistics for the event.
6. The President reported that the Unit currently has a cancellable reservation at the Arcadia Community Center for August 9th and 10th 2025 to hold its Sectional at a cost of \$1,704. She has also sought information from La Salle College Preparatory School in Pasadena (an ideal location where the Unit has held prior Sectionals) for information as to the availability of its cafeteria for the Unit’s Sectional. She’s learned that the cafeteria is unavailable in August due to a book fare and that school starts in September. She is having difficulty in obtaining further information as to if and when the facilities might be available prior to the book fare at a time which could accommodate our Sectional but is not optimistic that arrangements can work out to use

La Salle.

7. The Board went on to discuss dates for Unit games in the first quarter of 2025. After discussion, upon motion by Michael Rodrigues and seconded by Don Garner, the Unit games for January, February and March 2025 will be held on the first and third Sunday of each month (*i.e.*, Jan. 5 and 19; Feb. 3 and 17; and March 3 & 17).
8. At the last Board meeting, there was some discussion about the Unit's membership directory and the viability of printing and disseminating it. Gloria Rommel is very concerned about this and has been tasked with reporting to the Board concerning the number of copies, printing and dissemination costs, and logistics relating to this proposal. The directory is currently available on the website with names of all those members who have opted to be included and for all Board members. Members' master point rankings are also available on the website. Due to Gloria Rommel's inability to attend this meeting, this discussion was tabled until the next meeting. In order that any Board members who are interested in doing this can ascertain and report on costs for printing and dissemination so the full Board can evaluate the cost/benefit of taking this additional step.
9. The Board agreed that it should meet again after the first Unit game in November, at 7:00 pm on Zoom on Monday, November 4, 2024.
- 10.. Board members will investigate Subway and other options for food at Unit games, to provide a change of cuisine, and have requested that Morris Jones evaluate and report to the Board concerning his costs for snacks at such games to make sure he's recompensed.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Garner, Secretary