

**ACBL UNIT 559**  
**BOARD MINUTES**  
**April 8, 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 Liza Billington, Kathy Cresto, Don Garner, Sherry Hanson, Miriam Harrington, Morris Jones, Patricia Luehrs, Angela Peters, Michael Rodrigues, Gloria M. Rommel, and Lisa Walker. Lisa Walker announced that Board member Doug Senour had submitted his resignation as a member of the Board and he did not attend the meeting. Also present at the meeting was Roy Wilson, Webmaster.
2. Angela Peters moved that the minutes of the March 4, 2024 Board meeting be approved. Kathy Cresto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.
3. The current financials for the Unit as of April 8, 2024, prepared by Miriam Harrington, were disseminated to the Board prior to the meeting. The financials report that the Unit has \$11,868.91 in the bank after an adjustment to reflect a double payment to Morris Jones. Upon motion by Michael Rodrigues and seconded by Angela Peters, the financials were unanimously approved by the Board.
4. With the pending closure of the Arcadia Bridge Center, with Diane Gulbrandsen's approval, and after Board discussion, upon motion by Sherry Hansen, seconded by Michael Rodriguez and unanimously approved by the Board, future Unit Games will be held on the first and third Sunday of each month at Pasadena Bridge Center.
5. The Board discussed the intended and differing roles of the Membership Chair, the Ambassador program, and the Friendship committee. Considerable debate ensued concerning the objectives of the Ambassador program and how it best can be implemented. Lisa Walker moved that when a new member transfers into the Unit, the Membership Chair should send a letter to the new member offering to find them a bridge partner if they would like and to extend them both a free play at a game; if the new member accepts this offer, the Membership Chair will then ask one of the three Ambassadors (Gloria M. Rommel, Sherry Hansen, or Doug Senour) to contact and follow up with the new member on this offer. This motion was seconded by Angela Peters and passed, with one Board member abstaining and another voting against its passage. Gloria M. Rommel objected to passage of this motion on grounds that she contends the Chairman, Lisa Walker, should have recused herself and she moved that the motion concerning how new members should be integrated into the Unit should be tabled until the entire Board had a further investigation concerning "all the hanky-panky that is going on." This motion died for lack of a second.
6. The consensus of the Board, after discussion and consideration of dates, was that the Unit should again sponsor an Over-Under game. Upon motion by Angela Peters, seconded by Miriam Harrington, the Board unanimously voted to hold the Over-Under game on September 29, 2024 with Lisa Walker and Sherry Hansen co-chairing the event. They will report on the arrangements being made in a follow-up Board meeting(s)
7. The Chairman advised the Board that she had received a phone call, followed up by a letter, from an attorney who advised that a former member of the Unit, Ron Moeckel had passed

away in 2017 with no heirs and left \$40,000 to Unit 559 earmarked for scholarship funds. She described her efforts to date to learn more about the purpose of this gift and how the Unit could most wisely and effectively utilize the funds for their intended purpose. This included discussions with Mitch Dunitz a local professional bridge player who has a 501(c)(3) organization for the advancement of bridge and with various national and local ACBL representatives which are ongoing. The Board is very appreciative of this gift and enthusiastic about its potential for promoting bridge. After a sharing of thoughts and hopes, upon motion made by Kathy Cresto and seconded by Angela Peters, the Board unanimously appointed a committee apprised of Lisa Walker, Don Garner, Michael Rodrigues, and Miriam Harrington, with Morris Jones as ab ex-officio member, to do fact finding and come back to the Board with their findings and recommendations on how the Unit should hold, invest, and utilize the funds for scholarship purposes.

8. The meeting moved on to a discussion concerning planning for the Unit's Sectional on July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Pasadena Bridge Club. Sherry Hansen and Angela Peters are co-chairs for the Sectional. The main club room can hold 16 tables and the adjacent community room can hold 15 tables. We can use RSVP Bridge for reservations. Logistical details for the event were discussed at some length relating to physical set-up and clean-up, food contributions, and the like. Adam Baron will serve as a good resource because of his past involvement with sectionals. We need volunteers and will need to create and distribute publicity.

9. As the meeting concluded, the Board discussed the various manners in which Diane Gulbrandsen will be recognized and honored for the many years of service that she and Art have dedicated to the Bridge community.

10. The Board decided that, with events in the planning stages and the scholarship program in its infancy, it would hold a meeting in May, at 7:00 PM on May 6, 2024.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Garner, Secretary