

**Subject: Minutes of Unit 178 Board Meeting, March 7, 2024**

1. Meeting on Zoom was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Steve Gaynor

**Attending:**

(Board members) Steve Gaynor (President), John Schlundt (VP), Tom Botten, Jane Schmidt (secretary)

Note: David Trevor and Cass Weil have resigned, only 5 board members remain

(others attending) Teri Blu, Patti Stuhlman, Deanna Liddy, Keith Thompson

2. **Minutes if previous meeting** were approved without comments

3. **Treasurer's Report**

No report was received.

New CDs were purchased at about 5% for 14 months

4. **Tournament Reports**

- a. **Gopher Regional**

Full committee met late Feb.

PR/Outreach committee met 3/6. First email was sent to over 10,000 ACBL members within a 500-mile radius. Second email is planned to go to newer/advancing players at the end of March. Flyers will be available at NABC and other tournaments. Club managers in D14 and WI were contacted, as well as "Ambassadors".

Matt Koltow will be Director-in-Charge again.

MSGC is contributing \$500 for the Daily Bulletin.

Patti is recruiting help for setup Sunday afternoon. The lounge area will have tables for play this year to provide more space for team games. Bill Boedisch keeps the trailer now. Caddies are still needed. There will be a request in the next MN Bridge News email; Patti will send text to Jane.

Speakers and topics for Lunch 'n Learn sessions are coming together.

- b. **Summer Sectional** (Marc Ashton, chair)

Scheduled July 10-13 (four days) at the Roseville bridge center.

There was discussion of the space, some think it is too small. Steve will talk to Kim about getting an extra room for food.

Tom will ask Marc to send flyer to Jane for email news.

**Motion** for the Unit to provide a match for up to \$500 for the Charity game at the Sectional, passed.

- c. **Fall Sectional**

Scheduled at Roseville bridge club Oct 23-24

## 5. Proposed Merger of MN Units

Members of the Boards of Unit 178 and Unit 103 met recently to discuss merging the two units again. The Boards will meet again on Thursday Apr 4 at the Rochester Sectional after each board meets separately.

Several possibilities exist: (1) continue status quo, (2) fully merge, (3) metro St Paul join 178 while 103 becomes outstate only, (4) dissolve Unit 178 and ACBL assigns members to 103.

Details such as the composition of the Board would need to be worked out.

Advantages are in efficiency: needing fewer committees, single schedule for tournaments, coordinated recruitment and retention efforts according to new ACBL dues and reimbursement program (seen below, Item 6).

The discussion was generally favorable. A **motion** was proposed that we continue to pursue a merger, and passed unanimously on voice vote. A committee was named: Steve, Tom, Jane.

## 6. Awards

Unit 178 Awards banquet will be Saturday, May 11 at the Roseville Bridge Center with lunch, awards presentation, and a game. The game will be free for the top 3 winners in each category.

We discussed making the game free for renewing members as well.

## 7. ACBL Dues Reimbursement Program

ACBL used to send 11% of member dues to units, but starting in March Units will only receive 5% with an additional 10% available based on recruitment and retention efforts.

- a. New member recruitment includes teaching.
- b. "At Risk" retention is especially for players with fewer MP, who are most likely to drop out. ACBL provides a list to be contacted to ask why they haven't renewed (but not pressure to do so).
- c. Increased support for teaching programs.  
ACBL encourages "best practices" in teaching. There is a newsletter which can be handed out in class for new players, who may find the Bridge Bulletin overwhelming.

We discussed asking MN Ed Fund to reimburse new players for 1<sup>st</sup> year dues (\$29). We also discussed providing free play to Chat Bridge players who move up to the Tues game.

**8. Old Business:** Action Items from previous meeting (see below)

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Update</b>
1	Steve, Vicky	Decide reinvesting in CDs	Complete
2	John, Teri, Tony	Investigate putting an ad in the Strib	Not yet
3	Steve	Follow up with ACBL on charity reimbursement from 2023 Aquatennial Sectional	Sent email twice, no reply. Will continue to pursue.
4	Steve	Check with Kim on availability of Roseville bridge center for fall sectional	Done
5	John	Details on what is needed for equipment and training to support substitute directors	Waiting, pending decision on merger
6	John, Steve	Lists of active players from Directors	List received from Tony
8	All	Contact lapsed members, update online list	continue

**9. New Business:** None

**10. Adjourned at 5:45.**

**Next Meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> week in April

**Action Items**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Update</b>
1	John, Teri, Tony	Investigate putting an ad in the Strib	
2	Steve	Follow up with ACBL on charity reimbursement from 2023 Aquatennial Sectional	
3	John	Details on what is needed for equipment and training to support substitute directors	
4	All	Contact lapsed members, update online list	