

Minutes of Unit 157 Board Meeting.....07 February 2015

Attendees:

Michael DeVivo, Unit President
Michael Lawson, Unit Vice-President
Len Block, Unit Treasurer
Iris Bjorn, Unit Secretary
Bee Chapman, BDBC Representative
Rory Henderson, BDBC Representative
Dennis Wammack, BDBC Representative
Pat Yakubovic, BDBC Representative
Sherry Kamber, BDBC Representative
Emily Harrell, BDBC Representative
Linda Goble, MGM DBC Representative
Jo Ann Maddox, MGM Representative
Jerri Taylor, MGM Representative
Frank Cook
Chuck Kelly
Ted Bjorn, Greater Tuscaloosa DBC and Bama DBC Representative
Janet Brown, Gadsden DBC Representative

Additonal Attendees (for short discussion at beginning of meeting)

Ann Richmond, BDBC
Eugene Richmond, BDBC
Dennis Luft, BDBC

The meeting was called to order by Michael DeVivo, Unit President. Mike asked all present to introduce themselves and state their function in the Unit for the benefit of all new members. Mike then invited all to help themselves to supper and enjoy same while meeting was conducted.

A brief discussion was held re the timing of the Birmingham (BDBC) Sectional to be held the last weekend in May and the Tuscaloosa (Bama DBC) Sectional to be held the first weekend in June. Ann Richmond explained that BDBC had been scheduled for the weekend of 15-17 May and that Charlie MacCracken had asked them to move their weekend to 29-31 May. Charlie explained this was necessary due to scheduling and staffing issues that had arisen. Ann added that Charlie had not apprised them that Bama DBC would have its Sectional the following weekend. Ann explained that BDBC was simply trying to accommodate Charlie's scheduling/staffing difficulties and had no idea of the Bama weekend. Discussion ensued. The issue was concluded by saying that BDBC would discuss this issue further at their upcoming board meeting and that regardless of the outcome of that discussion, everything possible would be done to promote attendance at the Bama Sectional.

Additional attendees listed above then left the meeting.

This series of events led to a discussion re the need for a new Tournament Coordinator. Iris Bjorn volunteered. All agreed. Appreciation was expressed for all of O. T. Johnson's diligent, cheerful, and cooperative work the past few years as the previous Tournament Coordinator.

Mike then moved to a discussion of old business, as follows.

Old Business:

- The minutes from previous board meeting were reviewed. Several editorial changes were noted and made. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and passed.
- Len Block presented the treasurer's report, which included a balance sheet as well as a comparison from last year to this year. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and passed.
- Re Educational reimbursement for BDBC, Mike has been waiting to hear from the District. The District has now made payment for one-half of the amount requested. Mike asked for a motion to reimburse BDBC for the other

half. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to make payment to BCBC for the sum of \$821.43.

- Discussion ensued re Abe Zanayed's fees to the Unit for his recent Sectional. Abe is not in compliance with paying these fees. Abe was invited to this meeting but declined due to an illness. He did send an email which is included below. Discussion ensued re should Unit maintain a hold on Abe's sanctions until he is in compliance. Mike will respond to Abe's request for Unit's decision made at a Unit meeting a few years ago. For-profit clubs have been asked to contribute one-half of their profits after all expenses were paid. Profit sharing is imposed only on tournaments that are sanctioned not on regular games. The sense of the board is to let the matter rest until the next board meeting when Abe will have an opportunity to explain his position.

Mike,

I will be unable to attend the unit meeting today due to illness. I or a representative will plan on attending the next meeting to present a report on the profitability of our tournaments. As you know, I am disputing the 50% share to the unit as both unfair and excessive. This club has only been in existence for about 2 years and current projections show it will take another 2 years to recoup my initial investment.

For the next meeting, please include us on the agenda to present information regarding: a. reimbursement of expenses and b. new policy regarding fair treatment of all clubs in the unit regardless of size and profit/not-for-profit designation. In the meantime, please send me a written copy of the unit's policy regarding the unit's share of profits on sectionals.

New Business:

- Selection of new board positions: The following were appointed:
 - Recorder: Jerri Taylor (Montgomery)
 - Disciplinary Chair: Jerri Taylor (Montgomery)
 - Education Chair: Sherry Kamber (Birmingham)
 - Tournament Coordinator: Iris Bjorn (Tuscaloosa)
 - GNT and STAC Coordinator: Ted Bjorn (Tuscaloosa)

- Mike then passed out the Unit 157 Educational Reimbursement policy, included here as Appendix A.
- Discussion ensued re reimbursement expenses for education, in particular, should the individual clubs pay some portion. It was concluded that for the present time, the procedure would remain the same (that is, the District pays one-half and the Unit pays the other half.)
- Len suggested that the paperwork for educational expenses go directly to the Educational Chair. A motion was made to accept the new policy as written with this one change by Len Block. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Mike stated that he was going to write up similar descriptions for all of our policies and present them to Unit Board for approval. He will email same to all for review as they are written in advance of board meeting. This should speed up the review and acceptance procedure.
- A request from Birmingham for advertising for Beginner Bridge classes was presented some time ago. ACBL reimbursed \$750, leaving a balance of \$262.50. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay this balance. Mike then added that he would submit this to District and see if they are willing to reimburse any portion.
- Mike then asked if there were any other reimbursable expenses.
- Discussion ensued re Montgomery's request to charge \$12 per session for their upcoming Sectional. The additional amount is to defray costs related to their new building. It was decided to let Montgomery proceed with this additional charge and to report back to the Unit how it went.
- Montgomery will have a grand opening of its new club building in a few weeks and invites all to attend. Email notification of time and date will be sent.
- Cheaha needs a sanction for its Sectional to be held starting 11 October 2015. Chuck Kelly is the contact point on this.
- The next Board meeting will be in Montgomery on May 2.
- There being no new business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Bjorn, Unit 157 Secretary

Appendix A

Unit 157 Educational Reimbursement Policy

A goal of Unit 157 is to support clubs in good standing within the unit that promote growth in membership through education programs. The primary support mechanism is its educational reimbursement program which aims to return to a club the expenses of running an education program that are not reimbursed by ACBL.

Eligible expenses for the reimbursement program are net expenses over any income received and include instructor's fees, advertising and marketing costs (that are not reimbursed by ACBL) and reasonable refreshment costs.

Any club wishing to conduct an education program should notify the unit's Education Chairman in advance to verify that the unit will pay the eligible costs of the program. The Education Chairman will consult with the Treasurer as needed before approval is given. If costs are substantial, the Education Chairman should bring the proposal to the Board of Directors for preapproval. Once the program has been held, fees that can be recovered from the ACBL should be recovered and noted on an itemized list of costs of the program. This list (and applicable receipts) should be submitted to the unit along with a description of positive benefits the program has had for the club or unit (such as increased table count or increased membership). The Treasurer will then be authorized to reimburse eligible preapproved expenses to the club.

The unit Treasurer will then submit all documentation to the District 10 Education Liaison for potential reimbursement of the unit. Current District 10 policy allows reimbursement of up to 50% of unit outlays for educational programs conducted by clubs within the unit.