

FINAL

Minutes of Unit Board Meeting

May 5, 2018

Attendees:

Keith Henderson, Unit President

Michael Berndt, Unit Vice President

Georgia Raby, BDBC Representative

Lee Stimson, Willow Point Representative

Beth Stewart, BDBC Representative

Linda Tarver, MBC Representative

Sandy Smith, BDBC Representative

Dianne Wammack, BDBC Representative

Robert Whiting, ODWBC Representative

Dorothy Norwood, MBC Representative

President Keith Henderson called the meeting to order.

Old Business

Copies of the minutes of our last meeting, along with copies of the financial report, were distributed. Emphasis was put on the fact that our financials are quite sound. Lee Stimson moved that the minutes and the financial report be accepted. Beth Stewart seconded.

By-Laws were passed out to those who needed a copy.

New Business

Keith told the Montgomery representatives that the Montgomery Bridge Club is entitled to have three (3) representatives on the Unit Board. He asked if they would consider adding one more member.

Replacement of Unit 157 inventory. Discussion held regarding the condition of the cards and inserts at the Birmingham Regional Tournament. Club President registered a complaint to the Regional Director regarding the cards, since this is the Director's responsibility. Keith stated that, whereas the cards are the responsibility of the Tournament Director, the tables and bidding box inserts are the responsibility of Unit 157. Further discussion was held concerning the need of both tables and inserts. Suggestion was made that we alternate purchasing inserts and tables. Discussion followed concerning the amount of money available for these purchases.

Keith handed out information on the Grand National Teams Competition, stating that Sandy Smith, BDBC Manager, and Michael Berndt, Unit 57 Vice President, are organizing qualifying rounds for BDBC. Date will be determined for next year.

Keith suggested that we close Unit 157's website and go with the ACBL website since their services are free and ACBL website has the capability of communicating with all club's members regarding tournaments, special club events, etc. Additionally, it was stated that research shows that most individuals are not aware of the Unit's website. Therefore, it is not being used.

Keith pointed out that although ACBL has lost members in the last two (2) years, Unit 157 has stabilized. However, overall decreasing memberships continue to be a concern. Keith noted that if we, as a Unit, do not spend money to educate more people about bridge, the game will vanish. He reminded everyone about the success BDBC had with "Learn Bridge in a Day". Sandy Smith remarked that BDBC's table count increased by 30 tables per month since that educational opportunity. Keith would like to see Unit 157 commit some money towards helping clubs with education possibilities.

The board was made aware of the circumstances regarding the dismissal of ACBL's CEO. Keith feels that he needs to express his dissatisfaction with this decision.

Discussions were held regarding the possibility of Unit 157 subsidizing tournaments. It was stated that a subsidy might make it more attractive for other clubs to hold tournaments. Board members expressed concerns regarding guidelines that would have to be followed, a plan of action being submitted, followed by the club requesting a subsidy, and a follow-up by the Unit at the end of the tournament.

Officer Elections will be held at the Birmingham tournament, June 30, following the afternoon session. Keith stated that if there were no objections, he would continue as President for two (2) more years. All members were encouraged to seek out persons in their individual clubs who might be interested in serving on Unit 157 Board.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Raby
edited by Iris Bjorn, Unit 157 Secretary