

Minutes of Board Meeting
San Luis Obispo Unit 540
Dec 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM, by Board President Fred Strong. Present were Board members: Bill Ringbom, Pat Hallock, Louise Abbott, Gina Kirk, Bob Clark, Doris Dunn

Consent Calendar:

Minutes of the Nov meeting were approved.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Pat Hallock reviewed with the Board the Nov 2013 financial report, reflecting the Unit's bank balance of \$8,289.12. Financial report was accepted.

Old Business:

Nomination Committee Report: Gina presented nice bio's for all candidates. Charles Davis, Bill Ringbom and Fred Strong are willing to serve another term. Torre Houlgate-West and Bob Karriker are willing to run for the two remaining open positions. The election will be held at the Jan 11 Unit game to be held in Paso Robles at 12:20. Fred will print up ballots if needed for write-in candidates. Gina announced that she decided not to complete the remaining year of her term on the board. After discussion the board unanimously agreed to appoint Bud Zeuschner to fill her position.

Annual Awards: Fred will order the medals.

Sectional Updates: Doris reviewed the list of duties for the sectional. There was a lengthy discussion on the handling of food. The board voted to double its contribution for food to \$300. All of the money will be given to Doris who will purchase some food for each day. Each unit should provide a food chair who will encourage contributions of home-made goodies and help in the kitchen on their designated day. Doris will communicate with the food chairs so they know what she is providing.

New Business:

2014 Unit Games: April Unit game will be a STaC game.

Annual Awards: Fred will order the medals.

Unit ACBL Business: Gina presented several interesting documents.

- She is currently our "Unit Electronic Chair" and will need to be replaced.
- She presented a chart showing the cost of each table for different types of games.
- She shared the 2014 calendar from 5 Cities on which they included section rating and cost per table.

Club Activities:

- Doris requested that each club get her their Unit Championship game requests for 2014.
- Morro Bay will have games over the holidays except for Christmas Eve.
- SLO facility will be closed Dec 21 through Jan 3.

Meeting was adjourned at: 12:26.

Next meeting will be Jan 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Abbott, substituting
for the most honorable Charles Davis, Unit 540 Secretary

Note from Fred Strong:

District 21 meetings:

Sacramento, Bay Area, Santa Clara & Monterey when scheduled

All units have two members on the Board + the President when present. 8 member Executive Committee, national director, two alternates, and a President.

Tournament Directors are: Dianne Barton-Pine, Nancy Boyd and Matt Smith

Western Conference rep. is Marion Robertson

District 22 meetings:

Riverside, San Diego, Irvine, Ventura and Rancho Mirage (in 2013 District 22 lost its Riverside Regional)

District Board is 9 members: the National Rep/Western Conference rep.

Plus two from each of four regions (elected by the units within the region).

Officers shall be elected from the Board members.

Date: August 9, 2013
To: Unit 540 Board of Directors
From: Gina Kirk
Subject: Our District

Last month our board considered a proposal by Karen Velie to circulate a petition among our members inviting them to vote to move our unit from District 22 to District 21. While Ms. Velie made clear that her primary purpose was to place our unit in a position to host a regional tournament in 2014, the petition cited additional arguments for switching districts.

The board indicated its support for the idea of hosting a regional tournament and its desire to develop the arguments or "talking points" in any petition for change of District.

The petition presented at the July 2013 unit board meeting contains several inaccuracies:

1. It is difficult for our unit members to attend District 22 tournaments and board meetings, with meetings four to seven hours away in drive time. Attending District 21 tournaments and meetings would take about half the time.
2. Calls to District 22 board members asking for a possible regional tournament have not been positively responded to.
3. For several years, Unit 540 members have discussed possibilities for creating a new district with several other units,

Absent from the written petition, but offered when petitions were presented for signatures were representations regarding the location and features of a regional tournament in our county.

Several players have approached me with questions amounting to "Where's the board in this?" I have also heard complaints about the petitioning process and comments and questions regarding the proposed tournament.

I would like the board to make a statement to our member regarding this matter and to offer leadership if the change-of-district process is to continue.

	District 22	District 21
District membership	7,002 (10 th largest in ACBL)	8,787 (5 th largest in ACBL)
District HQ	None	None
# Units	25	22
Distance SLO to farthest regional tournaments	309 mi, - 5 hrs. (San Diego) 308 mi – 4 hrs. 59 min (Rancho Mirage)	290 mi – 4 hrs. 27 min (Sacramento) 424 mi – 6 hrs. 29 min (Reno)
Distance SLO to nearest regional tournament	128 mi – 2 hrs. 13 min (Ventura)	143 mi – 2 hrs. 18 min (Monterey)
Unit representation	Through 2 reps for Area I (Lompoc/Vandenberg, San Luis Obispo, Southern Gold Coast, Santa Barbara, Bakersfield, Santa Maria, Ventura, Visalia) Teri Atkinson and Warren Cederborg	2 members from each unit's boards attend District meetings
Communication with Units	Monthly Western Conference Contract <i>Bridge Forum</i> (District 22 edition)	Monthly Western Conference Contract <i>Bridge Forum</i> (District 21 edition)

Note from Gary Yant:

August 9th, 2013

MEMO RE:

- 1) Unit 540 changing to District 21
- 2) Unit 540 considering a Regional

Issues:

- A) Unit 540 (Unit) is being asked to consider switching from District 22 to District 21.
- B) Upon switching, there would then be the possibility of having a regional in the SLO area.

A) Switching Districts

Pros:

- 1) Allows possibility of hosting a regional.
- 2) Possibly more district support to our unit (training, guest speakers, etc).

Cons:

- 1) Losing relationships with supporters and clubs (Warren Cederborg, Teri Atkinson, Santa Maria, Lompoc, Santa Barbara). Note: The *Forum* will no longer reflect "news" from these clubs.
- 2) Leaving smooth relationship with one district and entering unknown relationship with another district.
- 3) Boundaries more out of whack (Visalia and Bishop [extending all the way to southern tip of Lake Tahoe] are in District 22).
- 4) Required attendance at District board meetings.
- 5) Possibly rushing into this without a more thorough review.

B) Regional in SLO Area

Pros:

- 1) Possibility of recruiting more new bridge members.
- 2) Economic benefit to community (motels, restaurants, retail, etc.)
- 3) Access to a regional by local players who normally don't travel.
- 4) Possibly increase bridge interest and thus increased attendance at sectional and local clubs.
- 5) Karen Velie's access to the media for promotion of regional, sectional and bridge in general.

Cons:

- 1) Multi hotels and playing site could be a negative (anybody attended a multi hotel/playing site regional event?).
- 2) Possibly decreased attendance at sectional as some players may only travel once annually to play in SLO (we have great support from Fresno, Visalia, and Bakersfield).
- 3) Possibly rushing into this without a more thorough review.
- 4) New regional might take 2-4 years to become profitable. Does ACBL, District 21, Unit board, or Karen Velie have the staying power?