

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Unit 540 Executive Board
March 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM by President Fred Strong, who distributed copies of the meeting Agenda. Present were current Board members Bob Karriker, Bud Zeuschner, Pat Hallock, Bill Woodson, Louise Abbott, Judy Obermeier and Jan Zinner . Leda Fields arrived after the meeting had opened.

Guests Gina Kirk and Gail Lapins attended for part of the meeting to address the Board.

1. Review and Approval of the February minutes. Bob distributed copies to all board members, noting that certain minor changes had been proposed since the draft copy of the minutes were sent out. After a brief discussion the minutes were approved as amended.
2. Treasurer's Report. Pat Hallock informed the Board that no Treasurer's Report had been prepared because she did not have all necessary data available at hand to reflect the results of the Unit 540 Sectional in February. A combined report reflecting status of accounts for the period 2/1/16 through 3/31/16 is to be supplied at the next Board meeting on April 8, 2016.
3. Old Business
 - A. Update on 2016 Sectional. Louise Abbott made post-event comments about the positive aspects of the tournament (numerous, specifically mentioning the food service provided by Heidi and Bob Karriker). Bob also acknowledged the tremendous effort made by Louise on setting up the tournament and keeping it running smoothly.

Louise noted for the future that it would be appropriate for Board members attending tournament sessions take initiative to straighten up tables, pick up litter in the hall and any other 'housekeeping' chores which may present themselves.

The Elks Club agreed to make the venue available for the dates 2/24/17 through 2/27/17 for the next Unit tournament. The Elks will again provide beverages—coffee, tea and iced tea.

Providing of snacks for the 3-day event was addressed. The Board agreed to ask Heidi Karriker to provide food for the next tournament, with the possible assistance of Gina Kirk and other volunteers, as well as to inquire as to whether Heidi would be willing to take on the duty of supplying food for the monthly Unit games in the future.
 - B. Proposed amendments to Unit By-Laws or addition of regulations required by ACBL. Neither Charles Davis nor Bill Ringbom, members of the ad hoc committee nominated by the board, were in attendance. Further discussion of the issues was tabled until the April meeting.
 - C. Report on progress for the Larry Cohen Seminar. Gail Lapins reported that, to date, 60 persons were enrolled to attend. Gail also reported on the continuing marketing efforts being made by her and Gary Yant. The e-mail campaign is ongoing, and Gail and Gary also plan to attend the numerous sectional events in the area to continue the ad campaign in an effort to maximize outreach. A total of 68 participants is considered to be the 'break-even' point. Gail noted that word of the shirts and banner the marketing team has developed had found its way to Larry Cohen, who contacted them for permission to include photos of them for his own website
 - D. Report on Appeals Hearing. Bud Zeuschner traveled to Reno, Nevada, to attend the appeals hearing on a local disciplinary matter. At the 10-minute hearing, it was determined that, due to numerous procedural errors on the part of both the Unit 540 Board and the ACBL offices, the matter should either be resubmitted to the disciplinary panel after assiduously following all mandated protocols, or abandoned.

Chairman Strong suggested that the matter be dropped, and no further action be pursued until such time as a similar situation arises requiring Unit committee action.

In subsequent commentary, individual Board members discussed possible approaches to avoiding similar situations in the future requiring disciplinary action.

A further discussion ensued regarding how to run the monthly Unit Games in the future. A motion was made and seconded to approach the San Luis Obispo Duplicate Bridge Club regarding the games which are held at the City of San Luis Obispo's facility under its sponsorship. A number of procedural changes may be considered under the enabling motion with the matter being brought back to the Unit Board in April.

4. New Business.

- A. New Proposal for Director Compensation. Leda Fields offered for consideration a proposal that new directors be offered a \$500 stipend at the completion of their certification. Payment would be conditioned on a) the successful conclusion of a mentorship of at least 4 sessions (without pay) with an experienced director and b) an agreement to direct at least twice a month, with pay, at various clubs, where needed, for one calendar year. Discussion by board members resulted in a limit of 4 new directors to be offered this stipend in calendar year 2016.

After discussion, the proposal was moved, seconded and approved unanimously by the Board.

- B. Gina Kirk offered her assistance in two areas – working with providing food for various events and taking responsibility for maintaining the Membership list for the Unit. Current caretaker Louise Abbott gleefully relinquished this duty to Ms. Kirk.

5. Anything else for the good of the club.

- A. Jan Zinner sought permission from the Board to request a sanction for a Tuesday day game to be held in Nipomo (South County). Inasmuch as this game would not likely be in competition with the game currently held by Morro Bay DBC, members were mostly in agreement with the proposal. A motion to this effect was made by Leda Fields. The motion was seconded, and the vote was 7-1 (Bill Woodson, Morro Bay, objecting), with one abstention (Bob Karriker – also with ties to Morro Bay DBC).

- B. Status of the Santa Maria Unit 543 and Santa Maria DBC. Fred noted a comment by District 22 Secretary Jim Parks that it may be necessary to either disband the Santa Maria unit or merge it with another club in Unit 540 due to insufficient membership. The officers of the Santa Maria club had requested an exception from District 22 so as not to be required to hold an annual Sectional tournament.

One possible suggestion offered by Fred would be to approach the Santa Maria **Unit** with the idea of holding a joint sectional with Unit 540.

Jan Zinner noted that the ‘sticking point’ for any such permanent merger or dissolution **of the unit** is, and will remain, a fund of approximately \$18,000, in their treasury, and how to properly distribute this money in the event of a change in status.

6. Fred adjourned the meeting at 12:29 PM, to the meeting April 8, 2016 @ 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Karriker

Bob Karriker, Unit 540 Secretary