

**Approved - Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors
of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League
27 January 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of District 16 of the American Contract Bridge League was held in Houston live and on the Zoom meeting platform on 27 January 2024.

In attendance were:

D16 Officers

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Betty Starzec | President |
| Ken Monzingo | First Vice President |
| Jamie Southerland | Interim Executive Treasurer |
| Kristen Onsgard | Executive Secretary |
| Nancy Strohmer | Past President |

Voting Board Members (Unit Representatives)

| | | |
|----------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Ed Rawlinson | Unit 172 | |
| Sue Gerard | Unit 173 | |
| Karen Nussbaum | Unit 174 | |
| Scott Nason | Unit 176 | |
| Steve Shirey | Unit 183 | |
| E.W. Sweeney | Unit 201 | |
| Neal Perlman | Unit 204 | |
| Mary Ann White | Unit 205 | (Proxy for Nicci Benninger) |
| BJ Sanders | Unit 207 | |
| Juanice Welsh | Unit 209 | |
| Gay Roach | Unit 225 | |
| Marsha May | Unit 353 | |

Non-Voting Board Members

Paul Cuneo, Region 9 Director

D16 Key Personnel

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Rebecca Brown | Patricia Herrera | Lauri Laufman |
| Larry Davis | Scott Humphrey | Jack LaVigne |
| Jonathan Ernest | Daniel Jackson | John Magyari |
| Evvie Gilbert | Rachell Jackson | Thomas Rush |

Call to Order and Quorum

President Starzec welcomed everyone. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. and a quorum was confirmed.

Member Recognition

President Starzec recognized the new representative from Unit 209, Juanice Welsh.

President Starzec presented the Presidential Extra Mile Award to Evvie Gilbert.

Monzingo and Strohmer recognized President Starzec for her contribution and many years of service.

Officer Election

The following individuals were nominated and approved as the new Executive Officers:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| President | Jack LaVigne | Nominated by Brown, second by Strohmer |
| First Vice President | Jerry Harrington | Nominated by Starzec, second by Strohmer |
| Second Vice President | Kristen Onsgard | Nominated by Strohmer, second by Laufman |
| Executive Secretary | BJ Sanders | Nominated by Onsgard, second by Gerard |
| Executive Treasurer | Jamie Southerland | Nominated by Sanders, second by Starzec |

Approval of Minutes/Consent Agendas

A motion to approve the Minutes as written was made by Rawlinson, second by Strohmer. Members were reminded that only unit representatives may vote on motions. Motion was approved.

Approval of Financial Report

A motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Onsgard, second by Sanders. Motion was approved.

Starzec made a motion, second by Brown, to reimburse Unit 174 for paying for student memberships of \$5.00 each for 30 children, totaling \$150. Motion was approved.

Strohmer made a motion, second by Roach, to create a new policy to pay the \$5.00 fee for any new student member, defined as age 26 and younger. Motion was approved.

ACBL Board of Directors Report

Cuneo reported that the year is off to a good start under the leadership of Margot Hennings, ACBL President, and Bronia Jenkins, ACBL Executive Director. Cuneo's assignments this year are Governance and Communications committee, Clubs Task Force, and Online Provider Task Force.

Cuneo reported an increased entry fee at the NABC with a rebate for staying in the host hotel. ACBL notes that this change is working to significantly reduce projected attrition charges for Louisville.

Also, the ACBL Board finalized a new Code of Disciplinary Regulations it has been developing since 2022. The final version was approved unanimously by the ACBL Board.

Cuneo announced that he will be resigning at the end of his current term this year. Strohmer led the group in thanking Paul for his eight years of service in this role.

Committee Reports

Awards

President LaVigne and Starzec will be presenting awards at the Houston Regional.

Charity

Strohmer reported that District 16 schedules a series of charity games every year. The funds collected from these charity games are channeled towards local charities, grassroots initiatives, and the ACBL Charity Foundation.

Due to the conflict with the Spring NABC, Strohmer made a motion to approve the following charity game dates to replace previously approved ones, second by Nussbaum.

March 4, Monday ACBL Grass Roots

March 5, Tuesday Local Unit Charity

March 6, Wednesday ACBL Grass Roots

March 8, Friday Local Unit Charity

Motion was approved.

Contact

Gilbert reported on the Robly database and will further research, reporting back to LaVigne, on the number of players not opening an email in the past two years, also checking to see if they are still in our latest roster from the ACBL.

Disciplinary

Brown reported the ACBL informed District Boards yesterday, January 26, that all disciplinary cases will now be handled exclusively through the ACBL National Records' Office. There will no longer be Discipline and Appellate Chair positions for the district.

Education

Herrera reported that the Lecture Series in Spanish is getting great feedback from the Mexican Juniors Group.

GNT

Nason reported that the GNT qualifiers will be held April 6 & 7 for Championship Flight and Flight B at the Houston Sectional. Flights A and C qualifiers will be held May 25 & 26 at the Memorial Day Sectional in Richardson.

Membership

Starzec noted that D2 Toronto, and D25 New England appear to have the best retention records in the ACBL. Laufman reported that retention in D16 is most challenging in the 0-5 MP category.

NAP

Davis reported that the following stipends are given by the ACBL as follows:

\$700 to each player for 1st place in Flights A, B and C.

\$300 to each player for 2nd place in Flights A, B and C.

\$0 for 3rd and 4th places.

Motions

Davis made a motion to provide the following stipends by D16 to qualifying players that participate in the finals at the NABC, second by Laufman:

D16 give nothing additional for 1st place in each flight (total stipend of \$700).

D16 give \$200 to each player for 2nd place in each flight (total stipend of \$500).

D16 give \$300 to each player for 3rd place in each flight (total stipend of \$300).

Motion was approved.

Starzec moved, second by Nussbaum, that D16 provide a stipend of \$250 to each qualifying player on the 4th place team in each flight that participates in the finals at the NABC. Motion was approved.

Laufman moved, second by Onsgard that D16 provide a \$200 stipend to substitute players that participate at the finals at the NABC. Motion was approved.

Brown moved, second by Onsgard that D16 reimburse San Antonio \$1000 from the Grass Roots Fund for a loss that San Antonio experienced in the January 2024 NAP Qualifiers. Motion was approved.

NABC

Starzec made a motion, second by Onsgard, that Tomi Storey and Scott Nason be the co-chairs for the March 11-21, 2027 NABC to be held in Dallas. Motion was approved.

Policy Manual Update

Rachell Jackson reported that this project is estimated to be completed by month-end February. She is interested in suggestions to “make it great!”

STaC

Storey announced that Daniel Jackson is replacing her as STaC Coordinator.

Zoom Support

Roach moved, second by Nussbaum, to authorize up to \$250 for the purchase of a new projection screen for Zoom viewing at our board meetings. Motion was approved.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:40 a.m. by Laufman, second by Sanders. Motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

BJ Sanders
Executive Secretary

Attachment to Minutes

District 16 Key Personnel

Awards Committee Chair
Charity Committee Chair
Contact Chair
Education Chair
Financial Verifier
GNT Coordinator
Intermediate/Newcomer Coordinator

Sandy Potts
Nancy Strohmer
Evvie Gilbert
Patricia Herrera
Jim Woodward
Scott Nason
Sam Khayatt

I/N Newsletter Editor
Lecture Series Coordinator
Lecture Series Coordinator
Lecture Series Coordinator
Membership Chair
NABC Correspondent
NAP Coordinator
Marketing/Publicity Coordinator
Publishing Chair
Recorder
Scorecard Editor
STaC Coordinator
Teacher of the Year Committee Chair
Tournament Committee Chair
Tournament Coordinator/Sanction Application
Webmaster

Lauri Laufman
Linda Griffith
Patricia Herrera
James Moody
Lauri Laufman
Scott Nason
Larry Davis
Rachell Jackson
Ken Monzingo
Larry Davis
Evvie Gilbert
Daniel Jackson
Ed Rawlinson
Tomi Storey
Scott Humphrey
John Magyari