

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Zoom Board Regular Meeting

January 10, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: Mich Ravera, Mischel Postas, Ray Yuenger, Michael Fleisher, Judy Fisher, Doug Hong, Betsy Wagner, Norman Marks, Stu Goodgold, Lynn Bartz, Bruce Luttrell, and guest Lynn Yokel. Guest Milind Girkar arrived at 5:35.

The **December minutes** were approved as circulated.

The **Treasurer's report** was acknowledged, though it did not include the year-end report.

The Unit switched **domain name registrars** to save money.

Lynn Yokel reported that the **San Jose Bridge Club** has a **grand opening** scheduled in eight days. Ten tables have already registered. Lynn Bartz reported that notice to some neighboring units was sent via Marketing Solutions/Pianola. Lynn Yokel was to notify everyone in our unit via the Unit's Pianola account, for which is there no charge. Some board members said they got two notices about the game. From the discussion, they might both have been sent by Lynn Yokel. Lynn is planning to use the larger room at the United Methodist Church for the first game, though it costs more rent.

Lynn is going to receive the balance of the funds from the San Jose Bridge Center Association and open a new account. Judy said there's about \$3,000 left in their account. Lynn will provide information to the Unit about the new account but would prefer the Unit not to be a signatory. Ray announced there were some proceeds, around \$270, from the storage unit still to be deposited in the new account.

Regarding the **Spring Sectional**, Norman learned that the United Methodist Church is not available on Sundays. Mich found out the dates are available at the Palo Alto Bridge Center. On a motion by Betsy, amended by Ray, the Board voted to approve holding the next sectional at the PABC subject to the same terms are before, namely \$15 per table up to \$500 a day per rent and paying for the cleaning service both nights.

Michael asked why we are holding only two sectionals a year. Stu said that more openings have become available in the District's schedule during the pandemic. Bruce said he would look into the possibility of holding more. Ray reviewed the District's calendar and said it looked pretty full in the immediate future.

There was some discussion of holding sectionals on Friday and Saturday and not Sunday. The church on Campbell Avenue and the United Methodist Church were discussed as possible sites.

Norman discussed his written review of the **Unit's progress towards its goals** for 2022. In general, we accomplished what we set out to do.

Ray said he needs to update parts of the website like the Presidential communiques.

Mich asked for items for his **monthly message**.

Mischel said there are now **534 members** in the Unit.

Ray mentioned that Judy Fisher was given a **District 21 Goodwill award** at the Monterey regional. The District is trying to find a date for its next meeting that doesn't conflict with a local sectional or a district event.

Lynn Bartz reported that D21 the **Monterey regional** was profitable because more volunteers are being used. There was discussion about why the Sparks tournament is not being held this year. The District is looking into Fresno as a regional site and considering Sparks at the end of May.

Stu reported there is an upcoming meeting of the ACBL Board of Directors.

There was some discussion of how to make **bylaws changes**. Norman is interested in reviewing the bylaws.

Betsy proposed moving the **sectional game times** up 30 minutes. Mischel seconded it. Judy was opposed. Betsy knows people who think 3:30 is too late for an afternoon start. Others proposed moving up the afternoon start, but not the morning. Bruce said 10:30 and 3 would work. A second motion was made. A majority opposed starting at 10 am and 3 pm. A majority favored starting at 10:30 am both days and moving the Saturday afternoon start to 3 pm.

The **next meeting** was postponed till February 21 rather than holding it on Valentine's Day.

--Ray Yuenger, Secretary

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Zoom Board Regular Meeting

February 21, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: Mich Ravera, Mischel Postas, Ray Yuenger, Karen O'Connell, Michael Fleisher, Judy Fisher, Norman Marks, Lynn Bartz, and guest Lynn Yokel. Doug Hong arrived at 5:40. Bruce Luttrell arrived at 5:42, but said in chat that he was having difficulty connecting to audio and video. Stu Goodgold arrived at 5:43, having called earlier to say he was running late. Betsy Wagner's power was out, so she was unable to attend.

The **minutes** of the January meeting were approved as distributed.

The **Treasurer's monthly report** was accepted. Ray pointed out that in Karen's absence at the last meeting, there was some question about whether she had distributed an annual report, but she had clarified by email that such a report is to be placed at the director's table at the club, and there is no permanent club now. The Board has received all the information that would be in such a report.

Norman presented ten written **proposed U507 objectives for 2023** that had been circulated to the Board by the objectives subcommittee. He described some of them as "stretch" goals, defining targets but not saying how to achieve them. The Board and Lynn Yokel discussed how realistic some of the proposed objectives were and some were modified after discussion and a straw poll. Ray moved to table a vote on adopting the amendments. The motion passed. Norman will add the modifications on which the Board agreed and circulate the revised objectives to the Board for approval by email.

Regarding the **spring sectional**, the draft flyer was displayed. The Board discussed and agreed on what the flyer should say regarding the tournament director, snacks and drinks, including water, and street parking. Bruce proposed some wording that the Board said was within his authority as sectional coordinator. Bruce asked for contact information for director Greg Vance to obtain the hand records to deal the boards. Both Lynns volunteered the contact information. Communications Director Lynn Bartz will send several Marketing Solution blasts to publicize the sectional. Bruce noted that our sectional isn't yet publicized in the monthly Bulletin. Ray said that the Unit has never separately contacted the Bulletin. That information should come from the ACBL.

Mischel reported that the total **U507 membership** is now 528.

Ray reported that there was a recent **District 21 Board meeting** at which Jeff Hack was elected Vice-President, Lynn Bartz was re-elected as Treasurer, and Ray Yuenger was re-elected as Secretary. Now U507 members are a majority of the D21 Executive Committee. He said that his summary of the Board meeting will be distributed to D21

members in a newsletter by the end of the week. The Memorial Day regional will again be held at the Sacramento DoubleTree.

Stu Goodgold said there was an upcoming **national Board meeting**. He has summarized recent changes in his article in the upcoming D21 newsletter.

Listed items of new business were deferred to the next meeting due to the time.

Because the next regular meeting of the Board would occur during the NABC in New Orleans, the Board agreed to meet before the NABC on March 7. Stu said he will be attending a national Board meeting on that date.

--Ray Yuenger

U507 Secretary

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Zoom Board Regular Meeting

March 7, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: Mich Ravera, Mischel Postas, Ray Yuenger, Michael Fleisher, Judy Fisher, Norman Marks, Betsy Wagner, and guest Lynn Yokel. Stu Goodgold was attending ACBL Board meetings in New Orleans. Bruce Luttrell joined the meeting at 5:48. Lynn Bartz joined the meeting at 5:58. Michael had to leave at 6:02.

The March **Minutes** were approved as circulated.

The **Treasurer's report** was accepted in her absence.

The **spring sectional flyer** was approved as circulated by unanimous consent.

Michael questioned one of the **Unit's 2023 goals** as circulated by Norman, so the item was removed from the consent agenda.

Regarding **unit games**, it was mentioned that Will Watson and Mich are available to direct on weekends, and the United Methodist Church space is rarely available on weekends.

Regarding the **fall sectional**, it is scheduled for November 3 through 5 and Lynn Yokel is the DIC. The issue of holding events on Friday was deferred till after we see the attendance at the spring sectional.

Regarding the timing for a **limited sectional**, there were technical difficulties in displaying the District 21 tournament spreadsheet. The Unit's spring sectional was not listed. Ray said he would contact the D21 tournament coordinator. It was noted that the weekends of July 16 and August 19 were free. Ray suggested the July weekend would be when we usually hold our member appreciation game. Bruce will look into the availability of the Community Center for a unit game or limited sectional and will report back.

Regarding the **spring sectional**, Bruce reported that he has been distributing flyers for the sectional and he had ordered several decks of jumbo print cards for a player with vision problems. Bruce will bring Lynn Yokel flyers to distribute at other sectionals. Bruce asked about obtaining a container for the boards of jumbo cards. Lynn Bartz had sent a promotional email blast about the sectional and more are planned. Bruce will need caddies. Sam Yokel is available. Lynn Bartz volunteered to bring snacks for the spring sectional similar to what San Mateo provided at a recent sectional.

In Michael's absence, the Board approved the **Unit's 2023 goals** as circulated by Norman.

Lynn Yokel reported that her **club game** is going well. The Church is allowing us to store tables onsite, relieving Ray of bringing them and picking them up.

At the 42 minute mark, the Secretary's computer shut down, stopping the Zoom recording. When the Secretary returned to the meeting, the President advised him that he had missed the **In and Out report**, with the membership number being unchanged.

Ray reported that there is likely to be a **special meeting of the D21 Board of Directors** to consider a proposal that Unit 503 hold a NLM Regional for D21 during its Firecracker sectional.

Mich, Ray, Stu, and Norman are interested in reviewing and updating the **Unit's bylaws**. Norman asked Ray to chair a bylaws committee. He agreed to do so.

Mich offered to speak with Ted Ujifusa regarding his unpaid status or to talk to Doug, Ted's friend, about it.

With no other new business, the meeting was adjourned.

--Ray Yuenger

U507 Secretary

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

April 11, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: Mich Ravera, Mischel Postas, Ray Yuenger, Michael Fleisher, Judy Fisher, Norman Marks, Stu Goodgold, Bruce Luttrell, Lynn Bartz, Doug Hong, Betsy Wagner, and guests Lynn Yokel and Milind Girkar. Karen O'Connell appeared at 6:15.

The **minutes** of the March meeting were approved as circulated.

The receipt of the **Treasurer's report** was acknowledged.

Regarding preparations for the **spring sectional**, Bruce thanked Doug Hong for allowing him to deal six sets of boards at his house, three for each session on Saturday. Bruce explained that he had difficulty locating the sanction number but found it with some assistance. Mischel pointed out that the latest ACBL Bulletin had a misleading description of our sectional. Bruce made two jumbo card sets. Lynn Yokel provided Bruce with the sanction number by email. Ray explained the ACBL insurance that is provided to Units for sectionals. Lynn Yokel said Will Watson charges \$11 per set dealing boards.

Bruce asked if he needed to go to Costco for snacks. Lynn Bartz reiterated her offer to provide snacks.

Judy brought up the vaccination requirements. Ray explained that the ACBL requirement is in effect until May 15. Apparently, the San Mateo sectional players were only checked the first session. Judy will acquire wristbands. Norman asked how the vaccination check would work for a team of six when one pair may only be showing up in the afternoon. Judy said she wouldn't be around for the second session on Sunday. Mich said he would be. Sam Yokel is going to caddy.

Regarding our **annual membership meeting**, no one had been in touch with the Campbell Community Center. Mischel volunteered to check with them on available dates. Mischel was going to check for the final weekend in July. The Board agreed on that date. The Board discussed having a meal before the game.

Topics for the monthly **Presidential communication** were discussed.

Mischel provided the **in-and-out report**. Our Unit size is now 517.

Norman reminded Ray that the **reopening committee** had met and recommended encouraging new club directors and subsidizing their training. Lynn Yokel said there are on-line director courses for \$50. Norman moved that the Unit cover the cost of director training from an ACBL course. The motion was seconded and approved. A second motion was made and seconded to restrict funding to those who intend to direct in Unit 507. The amendment was approved.

Ray reported on a special **District 21 Board meeting**. The Board approved of holding a Non-Life Master Regional in conjunction with the Firecracker sectional. The Board voted to retain requiring proof of vaccination for the upcoming Sacramento regional.

The third topic at the meeting was new events at the regionals, with a BAM teams event in Sacramento and mixed pairs in Santa Clara, and the two-day open pairs event in Santa Clara being converted to IMP pairs. Two board members were opposed to the IMP pairs event. One spoke in favor of having an individual event. A third member proposed to use IMP pairs in lieu of single-session Swiss.

Stu reported that the **ACBL Board** was close to hiring an Executive Director. A recent ACBL survey revealed strong support (about 2 out of 3) for vaccination requirements at NABCs and regionals.

A promotion on BBO got 198 lapsed ACBL members to renew their memberships. New measures are allowing foreign members to become Life Masters. The Boost program has been funding teachers of new potential players.

The Board decided to announce the **Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners** at the membership meeting. Mischel proposed distributing a list of names on the tables at the membership meeting. Ray mentioned the medallions available for the Mini-McKenney winners. Bruce said certificates are available for download by players who earned them from the ACBL. There was a consensus to obtain medallions. Mischel volunteered to obtain them.

Bruce was asked to look into finding dates and locations for a **limited sectional** and for a **unit team championship**.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 9.

--Ray Yuenger

U507 Secretary

ACBL Unit 507 Board Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM

In attendance: Mich Ravera, Michael Fleisher, Judy Fisher, Norman Marks, Stu Goodgold, Bruce Luttrell, Doug Hong, Betsy Wagner, and Karen O'Connell (representing a quorum) with guests Lynn Yokel, Jennifer Ravera, and Milind Girkar.

The **minutes** of the April meeting were approved as circulated.

The receipt of the **Treasurer's report** was acknowledged.

The payment to Patricia Steele for monies owed after catering the April Sectional was approved.

The Board also approved holding the Annual Meeting on August 12th with setup at 12:00 noon and break down by 4:45pm. The room has been reserved and payment made. The award medallions and certificates are in hand. The fees will be \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members, both including lunch, Bruce will ask Patricia Steele if she is interested in catering the lunch and what the cost would be.

Bruce reported that there is work to be done on the **Fall Sectional**, which will be held in Mountain View at the Palo Alto club's facility. After the meeting, he shared emails from ACBL approving the event beginning Friday November 3rd. However, the email incorrectly referred to a Mountain View Open Sectional rather than a Silicon Valley Sectional. Doug told the Board that his dealing machine and cards would be available. There was some discussion about how to limit the use of large print cards in future events. Lynn will be the director.

The Board voted to start this and future sectionals at 10:00am for both Saturdays and Sundays, and 10:30am for Fridays. Bruce is working on options for Friday's events.

With respect to officer and board member elections, all four officers as well as Michael and Bruce have their terms expiring this year. All have indicated their intention to stand for re-election. Mich will ask for nominations in his next communication to members. If there are any nominations, he will schedule an election with the results to be announced at the Annual Meeting.

The debrief on the **Spring Sectional** started with the Board thanking Bruce for his leadership and hard work. Jennifer Ravera was invited to speak, and she suggested that rather than asking Bruce to do so much himself, he should have a committee supporting him; free plays could be offered as an incentive to join the committee. Norman pointed out that the Board had suggested to Bruce in prior meetings that he form such a committee, and he had agreed. (It was not pointed out in the meeting that Lynn had developed the flyer and Judy had served as Safety Officer.) Judy suggested that Bruce ask Will to deal the boards at a cost of \$11 per set, which the Unit can readily afford. Discussion followed on lessons learned, specifically the need for improved communications.

Bruce reported that he is working on a Limited Sectional. It will be held between September 10th and November 10th.

Judy shared the sad news that Bev Wright had passed away.

The Board members acknowledged receiving a copy of the In/Out report.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 20th at 5:30pm.

Norman Marks, Acting U507 Secretary

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

June 20, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Judy Fisher, Norman Marks, Stu Goodgold, Doug Hong, and Betsy Wagner. Lynn Bartz appeared at 5:37. Bruce Luttrell appeared at 5:40. Guest Lynn Yokel joined by invitation at 6:10.

The **minutes** of the May meeting prepared by Norman were approved as circulated.

The **financial report** was received. Stu asked how would the Unit's bottom line be affected if the ACBL did not send any membership dues to the Unit. Karen didn't have the figures on hand but said we receive about \$2,500 annually. Mich asked what the income was pre-Covid. Mich stated that the answer was that we would not be doing really well without the membership dues. Norman said according to his study, we lost money in 2018 and 2019, made money in 2020, and 2021, and lost money in 2022.

The Secretary reported that he was aware of no **nominations** to serve as Unit Board members. The President observed that the six members whose terms were expiring and wished to continue would remain in their positions. Stu moved that the six candidates be accepted by acclamation. Ray seconded the motion. Norman suggested the candidates be deemed elected. The motion carried by a vote of the members whose terms are not expiring.

Regarding the **annual meeting** and unit game scheduled for August 12, Mischel said she'd contact Will Watson about directing. Mischel questioned why there is a charge for the membership meeting for the first time, not having attended the prior meeting. It was explained that the charge was because the food was going to be catered. Mich said there was a plan for Bruce to ask Patricia Steele about catering it. Bruce said he'd make a note to himself. Norman pointed out that we need to be clear in our discussions about whether the topic is the membership meeting or the fall sectional. Mich said he would prepare a sign-up sheet. Lynn Yokel said she'll be out of town that weekend.

Regarding the **fall sectional**, Bruce said he would have a draft flyer prepared by the end of the week. He also posted a proposed schedule in the Zoom chat. Some members questioned how many events were being proposed, including bracketed compact knockouts on Friday and pairs on Sunday. While there is a midflight pairs, there is nothing for limited players. Lynn Yokel joined the meeting during this discussion. Bruce reposted the draft schedule in the chat. Lynn said knockouts don't work at sectionals. She suggested open and 499er pairs for Friday and Saturday. She suggested A/X and under 3000 bracketed for Sunday. Mich asked for straight bracketed with no A/X. Bruce will send the draft flyer to Lynn Yokel and Lynn Bartz. The Board approved of the latest draft of the schedule.

The President asked for suggestions for his **monthly column** by Friday.

Lynn Yokel reported that the **Wednesday game** is doing well.

Mischel reported that the latest **Unit membership** is 507 members.

Ray reported that there will be a **District Board** meeting in 8 days. One of the topics will be reconsidering requiring proof of vaccination to play in D21 regionals.

Lynn Bartz reported that attendance at the **Sacramento Regional** was down slightly, but due to the table fee increase, the District probably made money. All the numbers haven't been reported yet. Mich, Betsey, Bruce, and Stu offered their observations about the Sacramento Regional. There was a power outage on Wednesday evening for hours and a short one on Thursday evening.

Stu reported that the new ACBL Executive Director is energetic. The **ACBL** will be considering whether to direct Units how to spend their membership dues. Norman suggested that the ACBL didn't support face-to-face club games. Judy proposed reducing club table fees to the ACBL. Mich agreed with Norman. Judy proposed that no strings be attached by the ACBL to membership dues. It was seconded by Betsey. A majority favored Stu presenting this sense of the Board. Ray dissented, being unsure of the best ways to spend the money. Stu said that the proposal is vague so far.

The next meeting was scheduled for July 25.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

July 25, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Bruce Luttrell, Norman Marks, Michael Fleisher, Lynn Bartz, Judy Fisher, and guests Lynn Yokel and Milind Girkar. Several members initially did not have the Zoom link, which the Secretary and the President provided them during the meeting. Karen O'Connell appeared at 5:40. Doug Hong appeared at 5:47. Stu Goodgold appeared at 5:50. Michael had to leave at 6:04. Betsy Wagner appeared at 6:06.

The Board approved the second draft of the **minutes** of the prior meeting that was circulated with a correction of the spelling of "Betsy."

Mich Ravera, Mischel Postas, Ray Yuenger, and Karen O'Connell were **re-elected** by the Board to their positions as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. Karen agreed to serve while on the phone with Michael Fleisher prior to appearing at the meeting.

Mich displayed a draft of the **fall sectional flyer**. Ray asked if we still needed to list a safety coordinator. He pointed out that several letters on the flyer appeared to be in a different and lighter font. Bruce explained the font differences are a result of converting from a png file using Write to PDF software. Bruce said he'd send a draft to Mich for revision. The consensus was that we will no longer need a safety coordinator and can delete that line from the flyer.

Regarding the **membership meeting and game** on August 12, Mischel said she had answers to Bruce's questions from Tricia in chat about the kitchen facilities in the Roosevelt Room of the Campbell Community Center. She spelled out what facilities are available and what the Unit will have to provide. We discussed that players would bring their own drinks. There was speculation about what Tricia would charge for labor and food to provide lunch and how many people would attend. Tricia said she wants to set up two hours in advance. However, we don't have access to the room that early. Mich asked Bruce to communicate our concerns with Tricia. Betsy thought it unlikely that Tricia would be able to provide what we want with the available kitchen.

Ray said he'll need help with delivering tables from Doug's house. Doug forcefully stated that said he has enough tables without taking tables from the church. Ray volunteered to rent a van to pick up the tables. Mich and Stu also volunteered to help with the tables.

There was a consensus that we need to publicize that the meal will be ready at 12:30.

It was agreed that someone needs to be in charge of this event. Ray expressed concern that Bruce should not be made the unit game coordinator in addition to serving as sectional coordinator.

Mischel said she and Mich will be providing medallions and certificates for the Ace of Clubs and mini-McKenney winners.

Lynn Bartz said she'll send out a blast to publicize the event once she has all the information.

Returning to the **fall sectional**, Bruce sent Mich and Ray the png file of the flyer to edit. Ray asked if any arrangement had been made yet to compensate the directors of the Palo Alto Friday morning game during the sectional. Bruce had not discussed this topic with a director or unit representative yet. He hasn't been involved with the money discussions. At Mich's request, Bruce agreed to look into it.

Mischel reported that the **total membership** is now 497.

Ray reported that the **NonLife Master regional** was a success and profitable, though negotiations with U503 about the costs are ongoing. Lynn added that roughly \$4,000 will be split between D21 and U503.

Stu reported that beginning August 1, any player can play in any online virtual club. **The ACBL** is still discussing whether to continue to share membership dues with Units.

There has been no progress in setting up a limited sectional and a team event. Stu said his house is available for a team game of up to ten tables.

Lynn Yokel said there will be a **unit championship** a month on Wednesday mornings.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 8.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

August 8, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Doug Hong, Norman Marks, Michael Fleisher, Stu Goodgold, Judy Fisher, and guests Lynn Yokel and Dave Holbrook. Betsy Wagner and Bruce Luttrell arrived at 5:35. Guest Milind Girkar arrived a little later. Lynn Bartz arrived around 5:40.

The **minutes** of the previous meeting were approved as circulated.

The **financial report** was accepted. The Treasurer explained that the Unit did not receive a July ACBL payment because the amount is under \$1,000. The payment is transferred into our account. We get no interest on our account.

Regarding the **annual membership meeting** scheduled for August 12, Mischel said the proposed caterer was not interested as we have only 8 tables signed up, not 15. Mischel moved that the event be canceled. Michael seconded it. Many of the people signed up are board members. It would not be difficult to send notice to those who signed up. Stu pointed out that we'll have to pay for the room. Karen said the cost would be \$535. Mich proposed that Will Watson should be paid for preparing to direct. Stu, Betsy, and Norman recommended holding the game. There was discussion about whether to provide the advertised bbq or other food. Ray proposed holding the game but dropping the table fees and the bbq promise. He mentioned that we won't need to rent a van or pick up tables at Doug's house because he can fit 11 tables from the church in the trunk of his car. Norman volunteered to order and pick up bbq lunches from South Winchester BBQ. Mischel mentioned that we might not owe the full \$535 if we cancel promptly, but no one has the full contract available.

After a 30-minute discussion, five members voted to cancel, and six opposed.

There was further discussion about the meal options from South Winchester BBQ. With food being provided, there was a consensus that the advertised table fees should be charged. Lynn Yokel said there were 14 tables at the church and sufficient bidding boxes and table markers.

Regarding the **fall sectional**, Bruce asked if the latest draft of the flyer was approved. The Board ratified its email approval of changes proposed at the last meeting. It was undecided whether Will Watson or Bruce will be dealing the boards. We don't yet have a quote from Patricia Steele for food at the sectional. Bruce will follow up. To hold our sectional on Friday day we will need to pay the Friday day directors \$150.

Mich invited news for his **next Presidential communication**.

Mischel reported **total membership** is 491.

Ray reported a new **District 21** newsletter will be published in about a week. There is also a vacant position of Western Conference Representative. The position doesn't preclude holding a unit position.

The Board instructed the Secretary to report the results of its recent elections.

The ACBL is asking for a nomination of a Goodwill person.

Stu invited attention to the column he has written for the upcoming District newsletter. Morris Jones was given an ACBL Goodwill Member of the Year award at the Chicago NABC. At the same time Stu presented Mojo a check for \$250 from U507 as voted by the Board last fall. The **ACBL Board** has authorized use of both the old and new versions of the convention card. Online VACB games are now available to all players, not just those who are members of the VACB. Ray mentioned the ACBL is also rolling out under 20 and under 50 games online Tuesdays and Thursdays at a cost of \$3, including a lesson.

Betsy pointed out that potential meeting speakers should raise their hands and wait to be called on instead of speaking over others.

There has been no progress on a limited sectional or face-to-face teams. Stu said he could host 13 tables at his house. He'd need chairs and tables.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for September 12.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

September 12, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Doug Hong, Norman Marks, Michael Fleisher, Stu Goodgold, and Judy Fisher. Bruce Luttrell arrived at 5:33. Lynn Bartz arrived at 5:35. Betsy Wagner arrived at 5:46.

The **minutes** of the previous meeting were approved as circulated.

The **financial report** was accepted. We lost a little over \$1,000 on the unit membership game.

A **motion** approved by email was brought up for ratification that the Treasurer invest \$10,000 in an interest-bearing CD. Michael suggested there are more profitable investments like a brokerage account. Lynn Bartz explained some investments that District 21 has recently made.

There was a **seconded motion** to authorize the Treasurer to invest the unit's assets in such financial devices as seem prudent after consulting with select board members. Lynn recommended Chase and opposed the Bank of America. Michael recommended Fidelity.

Karen suggested Lynn, Norman, Ray, and Michael as an investment subcommittee. Ray deferred to Michael. Norman opposed an investment subcommittee.

The **motion was approved** by Karen, Doug, Norman, Michael, Stu, Betsy, Mich and Judy. Mischel, Ray, and Lynn opposed the motion.

Regarding the **Fall sectional**, Bruce said that Patricia Steele has been considering reimbursement for travel expenses and other expenses. Betsy described how Santa Cruz has sandwiches made by Nob Hill. Doug said people come for the game, not the food. Stu asked for a fixed price from Patricia. Bruce pointed out that he was asked to obtain a quote or estimate from Patricia at our last meeting. Lynn suggested that the Unit shouldn't be involved financially. Bruce suggested that someone else should speak with Patricia because he apparently wasn't able to communicate the Board's varying requirements.

Lynn asked if sectional flyers were available to be brought to Table Mountain. Bruce will bring flyers to Lynn tomorrow. Ray pointed out that the current flyer advertises lunches at \$10, but at the last sectional we provided lunches though the flyer said no lunches.

Lynn volunteered to contact Patricia.

Mischel suggested we not hold a **Holiday Party** in view of the low turnout at the membership game. Also, no dates have been identified. Lynn proposed a potluck. Ray mentioned that the weekend of December 8 through 10 is free, between the NABC

and the Palm Springs regional. Mich asked for volunteers to identify a time. Norman proposed that Bruce chair a committee with Lynn and Ray. Bruce agreed.

Norman nominated Doug for a District **Goodwill award**. Stu pointed out that National Goodwill nominations are done by the District President.

Mischel said the membership has increased by 8 to 499. Michael pointed out that Brenna seems to have left the unit.

Regarding **District 21**, Ray mentioned there are two elections coming up at the meeting tomorrow. Lynn said the All-Western Regional was profitable because the District had renegotiated its hotel contract. Ray apologized for miscalculating how many tables would fit into the available rooms at the Santa Clara site.

Norman provided an update of the **Unit's objectives**. Several community centers are no longer offering bridge classes. We should reach out to community centers. Judy is offering new classes.

Betsy mentioned that Gilroy is running a weekly under 5 masterpoint game and we should promote it.

Ray mentioned that he has to convene a meeting of the **Bylaws Committee**. Norman asked that his proposals be circulated to the other committee members.

Ray mentioned that the spending limit as of 2012 is \$100 before documentation is required.

There has been no progress on having a limited sectional or a Swiss team unit game.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

October 17, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Lynn Bartz, Judy Fisher, Michael Fleisher, Stu Goodgold, Doug Hong, Norman Marks, Betsy Wagner, and guest Lynn Yokel. Bruce Luttrell arrived later.

The **minutes** of the previous meeting were approved as circulated with one correction pointed out by Stu.

The **financial report** was accepted.

By unanimous consent an email vote was ratified to **revise the sectional flyer** to eliminate the price of the lunches and to make Patricia Steele solely responsible for financial gains and losses.

By unanimous consent a proposal was adopted to reimburse Lynn Bartz for purchasing \$250 of **Pianola credits** in order to promote the upcoming sectional. Stu questioned the extra cost of sending advertising to remote units. Lynn explained that it cost about \$56 to reach 5,600 district members. To determine the potential cost savings, she'd have to look at the membership of each unit. Ray questioned why the Unit hadn't purchased more credits at the outset. Lynn recalled that the Unit made a minimum purchase to test the waters.

Ray told the Board he had been reimbursed for the \$250 gift to Morris Jones.

The President appointed Ray to chair **two committees**, the Bylaws Committee and a Unit Status Committee to determine whether the Unit was ever officially incorporated. On the Bylaws Committee is Norman, Mich, Stu, and Michael. On the Unit Status Committee is Lynn, Karen, Norman, Stu, and Michael. Michael pointed out that the impetus for the Unit Status Committee was that the Unit was unable to purchase a CD under the Unit's recognized ACBL name of Silicon Valley Unit 507.

There was a 20 minute discussion about what the Unit should do about a player having been permanently **banned** from the San Jose Bridge Club games. Ray, who has been the District Disciplinary Chair since 2008 and used to be the Unit Disciplinary Chair, eventually convinced the Board that the ACBL has eliminated any Unit jurisdiction over club discipline. Ray explained that a person who is banned from a club has a right to appeal to the District Disciplinary Committee and is entitled to notice of the right to appeal in the notice banning them. A witness to misconduct in a club may file a player memo and report the incident to the District Recorder and/or the District President. If the District President decides to file charges, they are heard by the District Disciplinary Chair and a committee that he assembles. The discussion ended as moot.

Regarding the **fall Sectional**, Coordinator Bruce said he needed the hand records for dealing boards. Lynn Yokel said she'd provide them. Lynn Bartz asked who is

providing snacks for the sectional. Bruce had made no arrangements. Mich and Norman said that Bruce should be allowed to make any arrangements. Stu suggested that Bruce could delegate arranging snacks. Betsy volunteered to provide snacks from Costco. Bruce asked what the arrangements were for finding a partner. There is a partnership sign-up link in the flyer. Bruce asked who was in charge of partnerships. Ray said no one has been in charge of partnerships for a while.

Regarding the **holiday party**, there was a proposal at the last meeting that Bruce be in charge of a committee involving Ray and Lynn B. There was no meeting. No one gave Mischel potential dates to check with the Community Center. November 18 was proposed, as was December 9. Mischel doubted there would be much attendance due to our late planning. She will check with the Community Center tomorrow.

Regarding a **spring sectional**, Bruce was asked to make sure we had a sanction. Ray was assigned to identify available dates. He said the District hadn't assigned a provisional spring date to U507.

Mischel reported on new and transferred **Unit members**. The total membership is 499. Ray said he'd notify the ACBL about Bud Biswas.

Ray reported that **D21 had a meeting** and Sigrid Price was elected Executive Committee Officer and Joanne Wicker was elected Western Conference Representative. Mischel was disappointed by the attendance at the Table Mountain Regional. It should have been better promoted. Ray said that there should have been better promotion in southern California Districts. Ray said that the ACBL has restrictions on sending Pianola notices to neighboring Districts.

Stu reported that **the ACBL** is moving to allow membership meetings to be virtual.

Ray quoted the ACBL minutes from summer 2019 to show that the ACBL had eliminated all Unit jurisdiction over discipline.

Mich asked for ideas on holding a limited sectional and a face-to-face unit championship team event.

The meeting was adjourned with the next regular meeting scheduled for November 14.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Special Zoom Meeting

October 24, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Judy Fisher, and Norman Marks. Lynn Bartz arrived at 5:37, creating a quorum. Stu Goodgold arrived at 5:40. Betsy Wagner arrived around 5:55. Betsy said she'd been trying to attend one of the alternative meeting invitations that Mich had sent out.

The topic is planning the **holiday party** at the United Methodist Church.

Mich said the Church has plenty of coffee pots and cups, which we need to wash. The Unit should bring coffee.

The proposed schedule was approved.

Norman has reserved the Church Hall from 12 to 5, at \$50 per hour.

Mich asked Norman to count how many tables are available at the church.

After a quorum was reached, the email vote to hold the holiday party on January 20 was ratified by unanimous consent before Stu's arrival. Part of the email motion was that turkey and/or ham and hot drinks would be provided.

It was discussed whether to have a free game for unit members. There was a motion to offer the game for free to unit members and \$10 for nonmembers. The motion was passed by majority vote.

Whether the party should have a theme was discussed. Stu said he has some table clothes left over from prior parties.

Norman had proposed a list of who would be responsible for different duties. Norman himself will be gone for about three weeks. Stu was named as head delegator.

Ray agreed that Mich's published dates, April 26-28, for the **spring sectional** seemed available according to the D21 calendar. A motion to secure that weekend passed unanimously.

Norman mentioned that a recent Palo Alto announcement was unaware of our sectional. Lynn and Stu said it had been mentioned in other Palo Alto communications. Norman suggested the sectional could be at the Church. Judy said that Sundays aren't available at the Church. Stu said the sectional could be Friday and Saturday.

Ray will attempt to secure sanctions.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

November 14, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Judy Fisher, Michael Fleisher, Stu Goodgold, Doug Hong, and Bruce Luttrell. Lynn Bartz joined at 5:40. Betsy Wagner joined at 5:48. The absence of Mischel Postas was expected.

The **minutes** of the regular meeting on October 17 and the special meeting on October 24 were approved as circulated.

The **financial report** was accepted without questions.

An **advance consent** item regarding the nature of the sectional pairs event on Fridays was stricken as moot.

Regarding the **holiday party**, Mischel asked through Mich that the Board identify a theme. The Board agreed unanimously to Stu's suggestion of a winter theme. No deposit is required by the Church. Stu announced that Will Watson would be directing. Stu has assigned tasks to different people on the Board. Lynn will design an announcement of the holiday party. No flyer will be printed. Ray and Stu suggested using SignUp Genius for people to sign up for the event and to identify the potluck dishes they are bringing.

Regarding the **spring sectional**, the dates of April 26 to 28 were previously approved. The Board voted to have a three-day sectional. The Board agreed unanimously to hold a two-session pairs event on Friday, in which players could play only one session. Ray will seek a sanction for the sectional. Bruce agreed to delegate duties to different Board members. He said he'd like to receive the hand records earlier. Kevin O'Leary and Gabi Bowling each helped make boards at the last sectional. Doug said he has plenty of boards. Bruce said he was provided boards that couldn't be dealt by dealing machine. There was discussion of whether the Unit needs to buy boards for sectionals. The Unit owns three sets of boards. Doug has many more boards. Doug has replaced the cards in the Unit's boards.

Regarding the **fall sectional**, Bruce was curious about the profits and attendance. Karen had prepared a report saying there were 182.5 tables. We used some of Palo Alto's supplies, although we have plenty of convention cards. Palo Alto charged us for such supplies, including coffee. They corrected a charge of four nights of cleaning for three nights of play that Ray had questioned.

Regarding lunches by Tricia, she may scale back on Fridays because she didn't sell enough lunches, but she didn't complain about sales on Saturday and Sunday. Ray suggested the Unit exercise control over the prices or it will be associated with expensive \$15 lunches. Betsy said Tricia didn't want to make coffee. Some believed the sales problem is Tricia's, not the Unit's. Judy had one of the lunches and said it was

tasty, it was just too much food. Betsy suggested that Board members should not tell Tricia what they heard about the lunches because the Unit isn't involved in providing food. Tricia proposed to Lynn that future menus can be provided along with the flyer.

According to the In and Out Report, the **total membership** is 497.

Stu was anticipating his last meeting as an ACBL Director. One topic for ACBL Board discussion is how much Units will receive from **member dues**. Should the percentage be cut in half?

Michael said that Karen Kulander complained about not being **recognized in some unit publication for an accomplishment** while her partner was. The source wasn't clear. Lynn pointed out that Ray's columns only mention the success of Unit members, not their non-member partners or teammates. She suggested that we also give members of other units credit in our columns. Ray asked if all six members of Michael Rosenberg's BAM teams should be mentioned in his Unit column. Norman said that entire team should be mentioned so long as one member is in our unit. Ray said that his last column had 70 named individuals and he asked if the column should list 150 names instead.

Norman said we should follow up with ACBL's **Return to the Fold** program. Some board members were unaware of the program. Stu explained that the suggestion is that all unit board members contact members whose fee payments have lapsed. Ray said this used to be the job of a membership chair. Norman volunteered to lead the effort to see who knows the lapsing members. He is not interested in serving as membership chair.

Betsy pointed out that the Unit doesn't do much to encourage **new players**. There is no supervised play program, for example, except what Judy Fisher does at her house. Betsy also teaches new players. There was discussion about how a supervised play program would work during our current Wednesday game. Or perhaps a lesson could be given before the game.

Norman invited others to respond to his proposals for **Unit goals** for 2024.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for December 12.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger

Minutes ACBL Unit 507 Board Regular Zoom Meeting

December 12, 2023 5:30 PM

In attendance: In attendance at the outset of the meeting were President Mich Ravera, Vice-President Mischel Postas, Secretary Ray Yuenger, Treasurer Karen O'Connell, Judy Fisher, Michael Fleisher, Stu Goodgold, Doug Hong, and Norman Marks. David Holbrook appeared as a guest. Betsy Wagner joined at 5:32. Lynn Bartz joined at 5:33.

The **minutes** of the regular meeting on November 14 were approved as circulated.

The **financial report** was accepted. Ray noted that the bank account is up to \$20,000.

Regarding the January 20 **winter party**, Stu said that everything was arranged. More publicity is needed. Five pairs had signed up. Judy said that it is complicated to sign up to play and to sign up again regarding a potluck contribution. Betsy agreed that it is complicated. Stu also agreed. Stu said there are 17 tables on the site and he can bring six more. Ray said that Doug may be going out of the table business. Stu said we may only need one hot meal instead of two. Karen said she'd check with the bbq place to see what they are offering.

Regarding the **spring sectional**, Ray said he unsuccessfully applied for a sanction through TourneyTrax. The sectional schedule is almost the same except for the optional one- or two-sessions on Friday. Ray suggested that Will Watson be hired to make boards again to relieve Bruce of that duty. The Board agreed to the suggestion.

Mich said that Gabi and Lynn Yokel should be invited to ask for **Unit championships** before the year ends. Ray said he recently obtained one for them.

Regarding the **in-and-out report**, we now have 491 members. Norman explained the ACBL's new "return to the fold" program. He may ask for help from some board members contacting lapsing members. He said that so far nine members have renewed their memberships. Stu said there is a large percentage of the ACBL members with no masterpoints.

Regarding **District 21**, Ray reported that there was a recent special meeting at which the Board adopted a 2024 budget put together primarily by Lynn Bartz as D21 Treasurer. There were three new items added at the meeting to the draft budget that was circulated. Lynn mentioned that Max Schireson has some interesting ideas to promote growth in membership.

Regarding **the ACBL**, Stu mentioned that he has an article coming out in the D21 newsletter explaining ACBL Board actions. A new President, Margot Hennings, was elected. Despite Stu voting against it, the ACBL has reduced Units' share of membership dues to 5% from 11%, with Units potentially able to receive 5% more for membership retention efforts and 5% more for membership recruiting efforts. ACBL Management will work out the details of these increases, to begin on April 1. Goodwill receptions have been scaled back to one a year during the summer NABCs.

Regarding the **Unit's 2024 objectives**, Norman reported that no one has expressed interest in running a second bridge game at the Church. Norman has contacted two community centers and they expressed no interest in bridge games. Unit Board members with the exception of Stu have not offered ideas about the Unit's goals for 2024. Norman mentioned that people need to take ownership of different objectives if we set objectives. Ray noted that Norman sent out a request for ideas on November 7.

Ray said he was creating an "**honor roll**" on the **website** as Norman had suggested to recognize Unit rank advancements and tournament successes of Unit members.

Betsy mentioned that Unit 524 has **monthly unit games**. Maybe our Unit could do the same thing. Stu explained the historical lack of success of Unit 507 unit games. Team leagues, individuals, and inter-unit challenges were discussed.

Michael said he will be unable to attend the next meeting on January 9.

Submitted by

--Ray Yuenger