

ACBL Unit 506

Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2025

1. Call to Order

Lauren Friedman, Unit President, called to order a meeting of the Unit 506 Board, at noon. The meeting was held at the home of Board member, Gail Gabiati, in San Francisco, Ca. The following Board members were present: Tom Stillman, Lauren Friedman, Gail Gabiati, Kevin Liberg, Kris Wong, Shazia Makhdumi, Janice O'Brien, Christian Goetze and Robert Schwab. David Gendreau was out of the country.

2. Treasurer's report

Kris Wong reported that after the payment of the January Sectional rent (\$4275), we will have \$26,024 in our accounts. This compares favorably to last year at this time when we had \$24,584. In October, 2024, ACBL sent us a check for \$1877.25 for Membership. (In 2023, we received \$2080 from ACBL.)

In December, District 21 sent us a check for \$391.41 for unused Pianola credit.

Because of slowly increasing attendance at our monthly Unit games, we are making a profit each month.

3. Sectional Planning for January 18-19 event.

The start time is now 10 am. Janice, Lauren, Gail, Christian and Bob will arrive at 9am for set up. After Sunday's sessions, Kevin, Christian, Janice and Bob will break down. Gail will clean up and put away all food supplies.

Bob's grandson, Jasper, will be the caddy. He will be paid San Francisco's minimum wage, which comes to \$150 for the day.

4. February 1 Unit game

Since some of the Board members will be at the Honolulu Regional and unable to help, the Board will ask Andy Strauss to be Unit game Co-Ordinator. He and his partner that day will both receive free plays.

Will Watson will direct (\$200 fee) and Vicki will give a lesson (\$100 fee).

5. Bridge Pads

Our bridge Pads are at least 15 years old and can not be replaced as they are no longer made. Some of the Directors we have recently hired are unfamiliar with the pads. We can't use the pads at the Sectionals because they are incompatible with the Directors' equipment. At some point, we need to make a decision about replacing our scoring devices and we need to start thinking about this now.

For the present time, we can continue using the pads as we have a lot of them. But we need to buy a computer that the Directors can use instead of bringing their own computers. Even when we change the bridge pad system, the computer will be useable for our new system.

Lauren moved and Gail seconded that the Unit purchase a computer. All voted Yes. For security reasons, this computer will not be kept in our lockers at the church; Tom Stillman will keep it at his home.

Here are the scoring device options:

- Keep our Bridge Pads until they fall apart.
- Purchase Bridge Mates now for \$4000. This is what Tom uses at his games, and ACBL uses at all of their tournaments. However, they are made by a company who only make this one product and their service has been unreliable. Alternatively, we could rent the Bridge Mates owned by the Chinese American Bridge Club.
- Use a software program called Bridge Tab which charges a licensing fee. Apparently, the program is difficult to install, but once installed, it works great.
- Use a different software program called Bridge Pal which is free. The UK, Australia, India and a few small US clubs use this system and like it. If we go this route, we will also need to purchase a router. Any software program will require us to buy 25 tablets and a bulk charging device. This will be around \$2000.

Tom Stillman will chair a committee to look into the various software programs. Christian will also be on the committee. BridgeWinners has a forum on Bridge Pal.

In the meantime, we will continue with our current Bridge Pads.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.