



**American Contract Bridge League, Unit 531
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2017**

Vice President Gene Katz called the meeting to order at 11:12 am.

Present were: Christine Denny, Richard Gold, Lorraine Gordon, and Gene Katz. Don Cooper was also present.

The Financials were approved by the Board. Minutes were not submitted.

Old Business:

Spring Sectional - Gene Katz provided a summary of the Spring Sectional. There were 154 tables, down from 170.5 tables at the 2016 Spring Sectional. Although the Sectional was viewed positively, the event suffered a net loss of \$103.07, which the Board attributed to the reduced number of tables. The Board discussed that paper flyers had not been distributed to local clubs to promote the game. Tournament Chair Gene Katz agreed that he would ensure flyers are distributed for future Sectionals.

Finances - There was a discussion related to the sustaining financial health of the Unit. Although there is sufficient funding, due to the generous legacy donation, the Unit games tend to result in a financial loss. The Board discussed several options, including reducing overhead, increasing game fees, and encouraging philanthropic gifts. The Board agreed that the best solution would be to grow the Unit game, and it was suggested that a more central location might attract more players. Denny discussed that she had researched other locations when seeking a new location for the Sectional Game, and would forward her notes from this research to the Board. Don Cooper also agreed to add a "Giving" page to the website, and asked that the Board send him links to any similar pages that may have been seen on other websites.

Spring NLM Sectional - The Spring NLM Sectional was held jointly with Unit 549 on May 5, 2017. No update has been received by the Board related to this event.

New Business:

Summer NLM Sectional - The NLM Sectional, being held jointly with Unit 549, will be held August 12, 2017. Art Foeste is managing the event. The Board was not sure who

was paying for the Forum ad for the event. Christine Denny agreed to contact Unit 549 to see if payment is needed from Unit 531.

Fall Sectional - The Fall Sectional is scheduled for November 10-11. Payment for the Forum ad may be due for this event as well.

Free Plays - The Board discussed who is entitled to Free Plays at the monthly Unit Game. The consensus was, Free Plays should be awarded to all current Board Members, the immediate Ex-Officio President, the Hospitality leads for the game, and other players who are actively supporting Board business (such as Treasurer and Webmaster).

December Unit Game - Louise Manganelli advised that Ocean Hills Country Club had not confirmed a date for the December Unit Game. Manganelli agreed to follow up with OHCC.

Bylaws - Christine Denny recently transcribed the Unit Bylaws, in order to create a soft copy to be used by the Unit. In doing so, she included the "Norton Amendment", which reduced the number of Board Members from ten to seven, and the quorum from seven to four. This Amendment was voted upon and approved by the Membership in December 2015. Due to a scrivener's error, an intended portion of the Amendment, from Article VIII: Amendments to the Bylaws, was not voted on by the Membership. The specific language is noted below:

"B. Proposed amendments or changes may be initiated by petition of seven (7) members of the Board of Directors or by petition signed by at least thirty-five members of the Unit."

In order to remain consistent with the intention of the Norton Amendment, Denny noted that this language should read:

"B. Proposed amendments or changes may be initiated by petition of four (4) members of the Board of Directors or by petition signed by at least thirty-five members of the Unit."

The Board agreed that this language can be updated in the Bylaws without additional vote.

Vice President Katz adjourned the meeting at 12:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Denny
Treasurer

