

MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING

April 8, 2021 via Zoom

“Bridge for Everyone”

Present: Rose Buckley, Mark Eckhout, Larry Pelletier, Lorraine Salvatore, Barbara Fitzgerald, Charles Clarke (left after Treasurer's Report), Margie Butler and Doug Hahn. Barry Brenner, Jody Shapiro and Parker Mann joined us for portions of the meeting.

1) Lorraine called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

Old Business

2) The minutes of the 3-11-2021 Board Meeting and Addendum 1 were reviewed. Both Barbara and Mark moved that they be approved. (Note in the beginning of the meeting the audio was not clear.) It was seconded. All were in favor of approval. (MSA = Moved, seconded and approved)

3) Charles presented the financial statement for February 2021. Rose moved for the approval of the March statements. MSA

4) Club Operations and Management were deferred to later in the meeting.

5) A discussion was led by Lorraine regarding collaboration with Unit 532 (Thousand Oaks). Lorraine has talked with Diane Gunther; and Diane initiated the idea of merging with our unit. The pros and cons need to be weighed along with the expectations of both sides. Lorraine will continue in coordination on merger topics and in the interim will offer to Diane, to include their members in our mailing/emailing list and advertise our face-to-face (FTF) games when they begin. Notices of the potential collaboration to the 177 members of Unit 532 should come from their leadership.

6) Unit Tournaments for this September and next year need to be planned. The first step, Lorraine will ask Barry to coordinate with ACBL to sanction the dates.

7) Lorraine noted attendance of our on-line games has decreased, but of more interest is initiating FTF games. Lorraine has asked Margie to head a Working Group (not just another committee) for investigating and guiding our board in the returning of FTF games. In the discussion led by Lorraine, this group was asked to consider: dates, venues, times and the types of games. Example; some 1750 games could be changed to open games or we could offer morning games. The old schedule of places, times and dates are open for change, if there is an advantage or if it will help in coordination with other local games. Working Group members will include Barry, Josh Rosenbluth and other members of the Unit at large.

8) Rose noted that the Board meetings on Zoom have required her personal plan. Margie moved the Board purchase the needed Zoom upgrade through Lorraine. MSA.

Respectfully submitted: Douglas Hahn, Secretary

MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD of DIRECTORS

SPECIAL MEETING

Regarding Potential Merger with Unit 532

April 16, 2021 via Zoom

“Bridge for Everyone”

Present: Rose Buckley, Mark Eckhout, Larry Pelletier, Barry Brenner, Lorraine Salvatore, Barbara Fitzgerald, Margie Butler, Parker Mann and Doug Hahn.

Lorraine called the Zoom meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

1. Lorraine informed the Board that Unit 532’s Board of Directors, as of Sunday (4/11/2021), has voted in favor of merging with our unit.
2. Lorraine has shared with our board the ACBL requirements for merger. However, their Unit has been in recent contact with ACBL and has found the merger process is actually simpler, requiring letters from the Boards of both units to be submitted to our ACBL District for approval. No votes from membership are required.
3. Lorraine has received and forwarded Unit 532 financial statements to Charles Clarke. Their current funds of about \$13,000 would be transferred to our accounts. They have no current expenses, other assets nor liabilities. Their unit would need to cancel current pooling arrangements with Central Coast (BBO).
4. A discussion of many issues related to the merger was conducted. Topics included, expectations of their membership, protection of our interest in local Ventura Club games, our non-intent as a unit to start Club games in their area (but our encouragement for private club games to start), and our procedure for going forward towards the merger of our two boards.
5. Limiting their unit’s seats on the new merged unit board to three; while keeping all Unit 547 Board seats vs. a straight merger of all seats was discussed.
6. A vote on approval of the merger was deferred until a joint meeting with their board (including interested parties of their membership) can be held for a better understanding of each of our positions and interests. Lorraine will contact their president to expedite this meeting.
7. It was discussed that an announcement letter (Lorraine will redraft for our board to review) should be jointly submitted by both Board Presidents to both memberships to inform the members of our consideration to merge the two units and to request their comments and concerns. Our board approval should depend on membership acceptance of the intent stated in the letter.

Respectfully submitted: Douglas Hahn, Secretary

MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD of DIRECTORS

***SPECIAL MEETING* with Unit 532 Representatives**

April 19, 2021 via Zoom

“Bridge for Everyone”

Present (Unit 547): Mark Eckhout, Larry Pelletier, Barry Brenner, Lorraine Salvatore, Barbara Fitzgerald, Margie Butler, Parker Mann and Doug Hahn.

Present (Unit 532): Diane Gunther, President; and Joan Each, Treasurer

Lorraine called the Zoom meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

1. Self introductions were made by each person attending.
2. Diane gave a short history of recent events leading their unit to a choice between dissolution of Unit 532 or merger with Unit 547. She also noted her recent conversations with David Lodge, the Director of District 22 of ACBL.
3. There is a process to follow for a merger. The process is initiated by petitions from both units, signed by 5 percent (re: 8 or 9 people) of each unit. ACBL may be involved in polling the full membership of both units and the process may take months to complete.
4. In an email train from David to Diane, the Secretaries of both units (Don Glynn and Doug Hahn) have been asked to call Linda Dunn and Kelly Trejo attorney's at ACBL. Lorraine suggested that she and Diane join the secretaries in an initial conference call with ACBL.
5. Some of the points raised in the April 16th Special Meeting were discussed. Participants asked questions and voiced concerns; clarifications were provided.
6. The letter for announcing the planned merger to the membership of both units will be updated and submitted after the process is better defined through our pending coordination and call to ACBL.

Respectfully submitted: Douglas Hahn, Secretary