

**MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 11, 2024, at Temple Beth Torah**

Board Members Present: Margie Butler, Sue Houk, Craig Kavim, Parker Mann, Kay Mendel.

Members Absent: Suzanne Brenner, Mark Eckhout, Raeann Koerner,

Guests Present: Susan Lang

The meeting was called to order by President Margie Butler at 11:03am

**Old Business**

**Approval of December 9, 2023, Minutes**

Parker moved that we accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Craig.  
All approved. (M/S/A)

**Treasurer's Report (Kay Mendel)**

Kay provided four reports:

1. Monthly Income and Expense - We had a loss in December of \$178.
2. TBT Detail - We had a loss for the month of \$751.
3. Towne House Detail - We had a loss for the month of \$94.
4. Profit & Loss recap for the past three years

It was noted that attendance has been down for the last two months, but we're hoping that is due to the holidays. It was noted that other clubs have higher fees than we do. We'll wait a couple of months to see if attendance improves before deciding what to do. ACBL fees were increased significantly at the start of the year.

**Club Operations and Management (Parker Mann)**

Parker provided the attendance graphs.

Jim Wall will be the new Club Manager. Parker will work with Jim to get him started.

Parker described the new POP-UP games that ACBL has introduced. The games are only available on Saturdays and they award a combination of red/black points.

**Recruiting for 2024 Board of Directors**

Mark has made no progress on this but has promised to deliver within the next two weeks.

Craig has recruited Gerri Knilans as a potential board nominee.

**Annual Meeting Arrangements**

The lunch menu will be similar to last year's menu. Susan Lang is organizing the hospitality volunteers (Sue Houk, Kay Mendel, Linda Forsyth).

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## Annual Meeting – cont'd

Sue Houk volunteered to watch the door.

A cluster of free play vouchers will be given to specific club members who have contributed their time and efforts significantly during the year but are not regularly compensated with free plays as are the volunteers for recurring tasks (door entry, snacks, and guaranteed partners). Proposed recipients included Kay Mendel, Susan Lang, Don and Anne Cline, Doug Hahn

## New Business

### Upcoming Theme Games (Susan Lang)

Susan Lang proposed the following theme games:

Wed 2/14 at TBT - VALENTINE'S DAY (later changed to 2/15 - see below)  
Thur 3/14 at TBT - Pi Day  
Sat 3/16 at Townehouse - ST. PADDY'S DAY

Craig mentioned that the Wednesday games already draw a big crowd and maybe it would be better to have the Theme game on Tuesday or Thursday. We chose Thursday which needs a boost in attendance. Susan agreed to change the game to:

Thurs 2/15 at TBT – LOVE OF THE GAME

### How to handle bad behavior by a player

A situation occurred during a game in December where an experienced player arrived without a partner and was paired with a novice player. It was later reported by several people that the experienced player severely berated the novice player during the day to the point where the novice player was near tears and at the end of the day decided she did not want to continue playing bridge. We discussed how to handle this situation. Craig Kavin quoted from the Zero Tolerance section in the ACBL Handbook and recommended we employ those ZT measures at our club. We discussed that it was important that the Director be notified when bad behavior is observed, so we need to educate the players about this.

An email blast message will be sent to all members about the Zero Tolerance policy.

### Rebate for short game at Townehouse

There was a player complaint about short games (under 24 boards) which sometimes occur at the Townehouse. The player indicated he was not the only one who was dissatisfied. Margie suggested offering a \$1.00 coupon to players when the game is under 24 boards. After a short discussion about the complaint, all agreed to the \$1.00 coupon.

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### **Advertising of RaeAnn's Beginning Bridge Class**

Margie suggested advertising RaeAnn's new Beginning Bridge class in the Daily Breeze. Sue Houk said the VC Reporter might be a better place. Kay moved that we budget \$300 for advertising the class in the Daily Breeze and/or the VC Reporter. Craig seconded. M/S/A

Parker mentioned that the ad could qualify for some financial help from ACBL under their Cooperative Advertising program.

### **Location of Strawberry Tournament**

Due to Mark's absence this topic was not discussed, except for a brief discussion about Crosspointe Church where we have a \$400 credit.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Margie Butler (substituting for Suzanne Brenner, Secretary)*