

UNIT 361 BRIDGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 15, 2025

Time: Called to Order 9:01 am by Rita Simas

ATTENDANCE

Don, Jay, Kevin, Rita, Susan M, Gale, Kathy, Judith, Kathy, Paul (on the phone), Susan G (joined 9:10) , Margaret, Jennifer.

AGENDA ITEMS

Approvals

(Note: When you see sentences lighted, it means add to April Agenda or add to an agenda later in the year.)

President Welcome Message

Discussion: While Rita and Jay held differing opinions, Rita discussed that not everyone is carrying their load at the sectionals and asks that all members attending Sectionals check in and out with Jay to see how they could help, if at all. Special needs are Thursday set-up, Saturday night prep for Swiss Teams, and Sunday close-down. Also, every night, the playing area and each individual table needs to be cleaned of trash and leftover cups and plates placed in the nearest trash bin. Iliff janitors will empty the trash bins on Friday and Saturday, but not on Sunday. We also have to solve the hospitality burdens on Greg. We need to have a second person solve the drink problem. Lastly, judiciously evaluate use of Unit funds when proposing additional member appreciation items.

Motions: Every board member to reexamine their commitment to board activities, both inside and outside the board meetings.

Minutes

Discussion: none.

Motions: Judith moved and Kathy seconded that the board approve the November 16, 2024 minutes.

Unanimously approved. Minutes published previously. Don moved and Gale seconded that the board approve the February 15, 2025 minutes. Minutes published previously

Further Action: Margaret to archive minutes.

Committee Reports

Rita stressed the importance of written reports, both to shorten the meetings and to have complete minutes.

Financial Report (Judith)

Discussion: Judith's written report is included. Judith noted that day sponsors for the Regional have been generous to date. Pro/Am money filtering in, our anonymous donor provided us another \$1,000 to offset Iliff costs. These donations are recorded as Unit Level Donations (481 Donations Received). Rita explained to the Donor in January that the Venue Rental fee will not be increased until 2026 at the earliest. She insisted on making the donation anyway. Rita will have another discussion with the donor to see how the donations should be recorded in a different category. If so, Judith will make a Journal Entry to make that change. Additionally, we spent less than budgeted and had lower attendance than planned for the Unit Game. Don would like to think about moving the month the Unit Game occurs.

Motions: none.

Further Action: None.

2025 Sectionals (Jay, Kathy, Greg)

Discussion: Jay's written report is included. Jay stressed importance of staff assignments at Sectionals and noted that key help was need for Thursday's set-up. Jay's report had questions about our role at the Regional (related to paper and stanchions) that will be discussed with Don. Kathy added that for the April 499'er Sectional, Don and Susan G have agreed to provide lessons. She also asked for check-in and clean-up help from Board members. For the next 499's Sectional, she'd like to start at 9:30 and plan for 24 boards in a session. Greg reported on hospitality for the March Sectional: under budget by almost \$2,000 due to inventory being carried forward. He also requested that lunch sales stop at 9:45 am to provide time to more accurately order food. (A count will be taken at 9:45, but tickets will be sold until gametime. Greg stressed we need help with trash collection after lunch. Not enough trash cans to get us through the day. Also suggested we have a means to keep lasagna hot. Lastly, we need to get into Iliff the doors are locked. (Not for smoking reasons, but for hospitality needs.)

Motions: none

Further Action: Susan M to send last Pianola for 499'er Sectional on March 27. Susan M to send first Regional announcement out this month.

Communications (Susan M)

Discussion: Susan M's provided written report (attached). Unit directories are available to everyone in the Unit. The board agreed to Susan's recommended board meeting dates. They will be listed at the end of the minutes.

Motions: None.

Further Action: Susan M to further develop ideas regarding club communications and promotion.

Regional Game (Don)

Discussion: Don reported it's going well and room numbers are looking good. He will ensure that for the charity "give" we will have a larger sign with QR code for donations.

Motions: None.

Further Action: None.

Growing the Game (Gale, Kathy)

Discussion: Gale corrected he Unit membership downward to 1176. She said it's getting more difficult getting heavy lifting volunteers. Kathy added that they are looking to placing articles in smaller neighborhood papers such as the Cherry Creek Chronicle.

Motions: None.

Further Action: Continued Committee meetings as determined by Kathy and Gale.

Old Business

Unit Appreciation Game (Don)

Discussion: Good news: Don shared that he heard more positive responses to this game than any other in his experience. Also, the I/N presence was greater than expected. Improvements that could be made based on: it was agreed that the lack of refrigeration was an issue at The Hub, also the time constraints placed on us by The Hub, February timing could be better so that people wouldn't have to drive home in the dark. Rita indicated that we should consider having Bracketed Pair games so that the I/N players can play with their peers.

Motions: None.

Further Action: Given all the negatives at The Hub, a study should be initiated to find alternate time of the year and an alternate venue, if appropriate.

Partnerships (Susan G)

Discussion: Susan G asked to be allowed to spend \$108 for an enhancement to partnership website that contains no ads.

Motions: Kathy moved and Susan M seconded the spending of \$108 for the upgrade. Motion passed unanimously.

Further Action: Susan G and Margaret to obtain and install/signup for upgraded version.

JJ Award (Margaret)

Discussion: With only two nominations, Margaret thought the interest in the JJ Award as currently defined is waning and spoke to Bonnie Smith, about how to move forward. They agreed to present the award to both nominees this year and to change the focus of the award. In general, it would be along the lines of the Colorado Victory Trophy, but constrained to those with less than 499 at the beginning of the year and who earned the most points in open games. There are still some details to work out between Margaret and Bonnie.

Motions: None.

Further Action: Margaret to work out the remaining details with Bonnie and update the Board on the re-worked JJ Award criteria at a future Board Meeting. Susan M to add discussion of JJ Award to Table Talk in September.

2026 Sectional Venue

Discussion: Jay shared that Don is working with him on alternative venues as we appear to be growing attendance.

Motions: None.

Further Action: Jay and Don to continue investigations.

D17 Update (Jennifer)

Discussion: Elizabeth Hamilton, our current president, has resigned because she is moving out of the district. Sharon Smith is currently the acting president and we will probably have election at the Denver board meeting for the presidency. Also, the Albuquerque numbers were down slightly. Albuquerque also is not being able to find a venue in the fall at this time. Tucson table count was down by 200 almost 1/4 of what they projected. The district sends a free Pianola for each regional, to be sent to everyone in D17.

Motions: None

Further Action: None.

New Business

ACBL Initiative (Rita)

Discussion: Rita shared that there are two Regional initiatives the ACBL is testing/considering. One is adding Bracketed Pairs, the other is to investigate adding online sessions as an adjunct to the Regional. Gale volunteered to help on the Bracketed Pairs initiative.

Motions: None.

Further Actions: Don has agreed to lead these two investigations. Report progress on bracketed pair at June meeting, report progress on online sessions at September meeting.

Unit 361 Education Grant

Discussion: The Board received an application for a grant to gain new members and strengthen the ties they have to clubs and tournaments. Susan G clarified that this is a grant we give and nothing purchased is owned by us. After the meeting, we found out that the potential grantee suddenly has personal issues to deal with and the starting time for the grant may be delayed.

Motions: Jay moved and Judith seconded that we approve the application as written. All members voted yes with the exception of Greg who abstained. Jay then moved and Judith seconded that we initially provide the program 10 free plays at the club level (given at grantee's discretion) with the promise of more as needed/necessary. Kevin and Greg abstained from voting; all other members voted in the affirmative.

Further Action: As the Grant Award letter was being drafted the next day, a few detailed issues came up that will need to be resolved. The officers met on March 17 and the following motions were considered:

- **Motion** to give minimum grant of \$500 when the grant is approved on the condition that:
 1. If less is spent the difference is returned to the Unit and
 2. if more is spent the difference is documented by grantee with receipts and reimburse by the Unit.
- **Motion** to revise measures of success to:
 1. whether the library has promoted the education of bridge to members and non-members
 2. increased the number of new ACBL members,
 3. increased play at clubs,
 4. increased play at tournaments.
- **Motion** to invite all club owners within the unit to provide input when we are evaluating the success of the program.

Motion 1: Susan moved, Judith seconded. Approved unanimously.

Motion 2: Susan moved, Don seconded. Approved unanimously.

Motion 3: Susan moved, Judith seconded. Approved unanimously.

The officers agreed that all ACBL members will be informed of the program, but only those with 600 points or fewer will receive regular marketing communication.

Rita will present these Officer approved Motions for ratification by the full Board at the April Board Meeting or by email if the Education Grant is awarded prior to the April Board Meeting.

Closed Action Items

Discussion: Club owner's lack of Pianolas was resolved. Other open items were deferred and the meeting adjourned. The Officers met, at a subsequent time, and they reviewed the open Action Items and closed the Action Items that were deemed to be completed.

Motions: None

Further Actions: Rita will email out a list of closed Action Items prior to the next Board Meeting, and request the Board to ratify the closures made by the Officers.

Adjournment

Unanimous decision to adjourn at 11:27 am.

NEXT MEETINGS: **SATURDAY, APRIL 19**
 SATURDAY, MAY 17
 SATURDAY, JUNE 21
 SATURDAY, JULY 19
 NO MEETING IN AUGUST
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 (changed due to Boulder Sectional)
 SATURDAY, NOEMBER 15
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 (if changed, it conflicts with Palm Springs)

from 9-11:15 AM at Denver Metro Bridge Studio.

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Welcome Message
3. February and Unit Game financial reports
4. Sectional committee report
5. Communications report
6. Growing the Game and Volunteering report
7. ACBL initiatives
8. Unit 361 Grant Application