

## ACBL Unit 103 Meeting Minutes

Call To Order.

On Thursday, December 19, 2024, President Sue Greenberg called to order a regularly scheduled Zoom meeting of ACBL Unit 103 Board of Directors. Secretary Tom Owens was present. Also present were:

- Amy Dutton
- Rajiv Kapadia
- David Gustafson
- Matt Belau
- Connie Nelson
- Warren Nelson
- Theo Black

Also present was:

- Lance Chamberlain – Business Manager
- Maura Studer – Alzheimer’s Association

### Guest.

Ms. Studer introduced herself and explained she is willing to help us promote games for Alzheimer’s. Their program is Shine A Light on Alzheimer’s. To help us she has door prizes available and is willing to talk to groups about the mind and body as it relates to Alzheimer's. To promote a “Shine A Light on Alzheimer's” game we can register on the website. We have an ACBL code.

Vice President Kapadia introduced Theo Black from Mankato. He is the proposed replacement for Mr. Rajiv in the new year. His first name is pronounced Kayo.

### Other Announcements.

Ms. Greenberg announced that Ms. Nelson’s term expires in January.

Ms. Nelson told us Bob Leighton is President of Media One and is good at communications.

Ms. Greenberg announced that Keith Thompson now resides in Unit 178. Mr. Gustafson is replacing Mr. Thompson.

### Minutes Approval.

Ms. Nelson moved that we approve the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Kapadia seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### Reports:

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President Greenberg reported:

### Merger.

- Ms. Greenberg spoke with Sue Sanger (Chair for Unit 178) over the telephone.
  - Ms. Sanger is in favor of the unit merger.
  - Ms. Sanger did not know if Unit 178 could simply dissolve.
  - We believe Unit 178 could dissolve with a simple majority of their Board of Directors.
  - Unit 178 concerns are:
    - What would the structure of the combined Board be, needs to include out state clubs and metro clubs.
    - There are some issues with our policy document.
    - Unit 178 proposes a small committee to resolve these issues.
    - Ms. Sanger has two members who are ready to serve on this committee.
  - Mr. Gustafson proposes that, in addition to having two board members from Unit 103, that we include some ad hoc members from the clubs.
- Mr. Belau added:
  - Unit 178's last three tournaments were held at the Bridge Center of St. Paul.
  - Unit 178 was not earning money in parts of the 555 program.
  - Mr. Belau believes Unit 178 can dissolve with a simple affirmative Board vote, then notifying the ACBL of the dissolution and merger.
  - Mr. Belau believes it would be best to choose a date in advance to make the merger official.
- Mr. Gustafson is a member of the Bridge Center of St. Paul club. Their club is neutral on the merger.
- Ms. Nelson is concerned that there would be fewer opportunities in the Mini-McKenney and the Ace of Clubs.
- Ms. Greenberg advised the unit may recognize as many members for the races as we wish. The ACBL issues a certificate only for the first-place members.
- Mr. Belau believes we should expand the races from the top three to the top five.
- Ms. Greenberg advised the volunteers from Unit 178 are Todd Flowerday and Keith Thompson.
- Ms. Greenberg advised she would like all issues involving the merger resolved before the Gopher Tournament.
- Ms. Dutton recommends we broadcast the Ad Hoc opportunity to all of our members as soon as we can.
- Mr. Gustafson informed us that there was a merger in Detroit and that it went well. He further advised we might want to contact them for advice on implementation.
- Ms. Greenberg asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Mr. Belau and Mr. Nelson volunteered.
- This makes the committee Messrs Flowerday, Thompson, Belau and Nelson, with Ms. Greenberg chairing.

### 555 Project.

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- Ms. Greenberg reports we did a reasonable job. We lost a little money opportunity and reminded everyone of the Return to the Fold link.
- Ms. Nelson asked if we could go back in time with the link.

### Awards Luncheon.

Ms. Greenberg announced the luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, May 4 for both units.

- We need someone to arrange lunch.
- Ms. Dutton advised she thought Sandy Nelson from Unit 178 was doing this.
- Ms. Dutton volunteered to help.

### Mr. Chamberlain Report.

- Mr. Chamberlain has nothing new to report.
- In response to questions, he advised:
  - Our loss for 2024 will be about \$10,000, mostly in support of our clubs.
  - The Rochester Regional Tournament lost about \$3,000.
- Ms. Dutton opined that the \$10,000 loss is OK since that was the plan.
- Mr. Belua asked if we obtained the payment from BBO. Mr. Chamberlain advised we did.

### Mr. Belau Report.

- Ms. Nelson reported we had 17 tables at the tournament in St. Cloud.
- Mr. Belau reported:
  - The April sanction has been approved.
  - The Holiday Tournaments had 50+ tables per day.

### Business Items.

- Representing the Woodbury club, Earl Conner asked for additional money for hardware. Our policy states each club could request up to \$2,500 and it was a one-time opportunity. Mr. Conner advised he missed the “one-time” part.
- Ms. Dutton stated we should not reopen the window, just so a club can claw back some money.
- Ms. Nelson advised Mr. Gustafson wants to discuss this matter. Mr. Gustafson needed to leave the meeting early.
- Ms. Greenberg recommended we table the matter until our January meeting. Everyone agreed.

### Unit 103 Innovation Fund.

- Ms. Nelson reports the document speaks for itself. The cycle is from January through December. Ms. Nelson is looking for volunteers for the committee.
- Ms. Dutton offered that her preference for the awards would be (1) new members, (2) retaining members, (3) bringing lost members back.
- Ms. Nelson and Owens agreed to join the committee with Ms. Nelson chairing.
- Ms. Dutton asked what the \$1,000 award is for?

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- We agreed that the award is not simply to advance an idea. It is to actually implement the idea.
- We are willing to pay for actual expenses and a stipend for time.
- Mr. Belau asked if we should table the implementation until the merger decision. Ms. Greenberg wants to implement it now.
- Ms. Nelson asked if we needed to vote on the matter. Since the funding has been approved, we believed it needed no other approval.

### Education Foundation.

- Ms. Nelson asked about the Education Foundation paying for the dues for new ACBL members and a \$29.00 reimbursement after completing the education courses.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33.

Submitted by Tom Owens