

Unit 163 Board Meeting
Via Zoom
September 14, 2024
10:30 AM

The meeting was called to order by President Maureen Busta at 10:30 AM.

Board Members Present: President/Interim Secretary, Maureen Busta; Vice-President, Deb Woodhouse; Area 2 Representative: Keith Sutherland; Area 3 Representative; Vicki Shelley/Unit Tournament Coordinator; Area 4 Representative: Martha Peterson.

Sending regrets: Area 2 Representative: Lynda Kuehn, : Area 4 Representative: Martha Peterson. Melissa Heston: 2025 Tournament Director

Guests: Bonnie Stettler, Penny Gilloon

Sending regrets: Melissa Heston, Martha Peterson, Carol Panzer

Motion by Bonnie Stettler, seconded by Vicki Shelley to approve minutes from Approve May 4th, 2024, meeting. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Bonnie Stettler, seconded by Deb Woodhouse to approve minutes of August 16th, 2024, meeting. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Vicki Shelley, seconded by Deb Woodhouse to approve Treasurer's Report. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Deb Woodhouse, seconded by Keith Sutherland to approve the following Appointments: Bonnie Stettler, Treasurer; Penny Gilloon, Area 2 Representative. **Motion passed.**

Proposal Tabled on August 16th, 2024, meeting: A motion was made by Vicki to adopt a policy whereby the first time a social bridge player attends a sanctioned F2F game the Manager would give a free play, and the Unit would reimburse the manager. The name of the new player, along with the date attending the local F2F club will be sent to the Treasurer. Effective immediately. **Motion** by Keith Sutherland to remove Proposal from the Table: to implement a Unit 163 Membership Drive to Attract Social Bridge Players to Duplicate Clubs. Revisions to this proposal: remove the "social bridge player" from the proposal and replace it with "anyone who has not played in a duplicate bridge game". Club Managers would decide who qualifies. The Club Managers would keep track of the record for each of the 5 Club managers and forward a document to Bonnie Stettler for payment by June 30th, 2025 and Dec 31st, 2025. The program starts –September 2024 and will end on December 31st, 2025, at which time the program will be reviewed to determine its effectiveness. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Martha Peterson and seconded by Vickki Shelley to purchase Bridge Mates that travel from one Tournament to another and are used by local clubs between Tournaments. Maureen had talked with each of the Club Managers and Waterloo requested 10, Mt. Pleasant requested 8, 9 or 10, and Iowa City requested 10-12. Discussion included cost/benefits of Bridge mates; compensating those Clubs that already have their own; logistics of getting the Bridge mates to each Tournament when needed. More information is needed. **Motion tabled by Vickki Shelley.**

Motion by Martha Peterson and seconded by Penny Gilloon to purchase tablecloths for the tables to be used during Tournaments. Some Clubs already own these since their tables are unsightly. Laundering the tablecloths would be difficult at the end of each Tournament. **Motion failed.**

Motioned by by Deb Woodhouse, seconded by Bonnie Stettler that the Tournament fees for 2025 remain at \$12 per player per session for Sectionals (and I/N Regionals that run at the same time) and \$16.00 per player per session for Open Regionals. The \$100 Hospitality fee would remain the same. **Motion passed.**

Motioned by Vickki Shelley and seconded by Keith Sutherland Proposal: For all Unit 163 F2F club games, the Unit shall reimburse the club manager up to \$4 per table for holding ACBL special games which charge more than the \$1.15 table fee. This does not include Unit games (Unit Club Championships/Unit Charity Championships) or Local Charity Games. The suggestion to club managers is to use the Unit reimbursements to benefit the players in the club by either reducing table fees, purchasing new equipment, creating club funded social events, or other creative ideas to benefit the local bridge community. The previous NAP/GNT policy will be on hold until December 31, 2025, when this program will be reviewed. Vickki will create a form that includes financial reimbursements for each of the 4 programs to increase membership: (1. Club Incentive program, 2. Program to transition anyone who has not played duplicate bridge to duplicate bridge, 3. Education program, 4. Mentorship program.). Vickki will ask each Club Manager to keep track of the reimbursements owed to them and then they will submit their requests for reimbursements twice a year to Bonnie (Treasurer) by June 30th, 2025, and December 21st, 2025.

Discussion Topics:

- 1) Does the Unit want to have a Separate Award's Ceremony or have it during a Tournament Game? If it was held during a Tournament Game, it would mean that there would only be 2 Unit Charity Club Championship games rather than 4 and we would need to secure a Tournament Director (currently Vickki is the only one qualified in our Unit and she would not be interested.)

Motion by Keith Sutherland and seconded by Vickki Shelley that an Awards Ceremony be held in 2025 either at a Tournament (not a Unit Charity Game) or at individual local Club. **Motion passed.**

- 2) Unit 163 Policy on Geographical Organization- President Busta would like at least one Area Representative from each of the 5 areas. One is needed for Area 5 if anyone knows of someone who may be interested.
- 3) Maureen Busta and Mark Patton will Review the Boards at the Dubuque Tournament and will replace any defective cards or Boards owned by Unit 163
- 4) Note: In a Pair/Team Event it will be left up to each local Tournament Committee to determine if the teams will be set up by individual participants or the Tournament Director.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM

Next meeting: November 9th at 10:30 AM

(All motions are unanimous unless otherwise noted.)