

Meeting Minutes
East Bay Unit 502 Board of Directors
May 16, 2021

The meeting of the East Bay Unit 502 Board of Directors was called to order at 10:20 am (via Zoom conference call) by President Libby Silver. Thank you to Marcia for making the Zoom arrangements!

Attending Board Members: Susan Bailey, Larry Bowerman, Monica Deutsch, Joseph Held, Tina Heldman, Gail Oraftik, Libby Silver and Marcia Wasserman.

Missing Board Members: Estelle Baum, Don Levine, Neal Mazaroff, Esther Rubke and Pam Sawyer.

1) The **minutes** for the March 21, 2021 meeting were approved.

2) **Treasury Report (Susan):**

Treasurer Susan Bailey reported on the current status of Unit 502 finances. Our current assets = \$30,519.94 (as of 5/21/21). The major sources of income during the first and second quarters of 2021 were the membership renewal rebates from ACBL (each Unit receives about 11% of the membership renewal fees paid to the ACBL) and the refund of the \$1500 deposit to the Masonic Center. The major outflows during the first and second quarters were donations to the EBCBC (about \$660) and the monthly website/internet bills. Upcoming financial activities include the continuing donation to the EBCBC and the monthly website/internet bills.

3) **Old Business:**

***Report on Status of EBCBC and Piedmont Online Games (Libby):** Prior to the meeting, Libby forwarded two emails from Sandi Davis (EBCBC). The EBCBC weekly newsletters continue as the principal source of information about the EBCBC. Sandi reported that the EBCBC is working to determine the next steps necessary to reopen the EBCBC for in-person bridge, possibly as early as the middle of June. The May 23rd EBCBC newsletter will include an anonymous member survey on how people feel about the resumption of in-person bridge. Doug Handler has reported to Libby that his online bridge games are doing well and that he has no plans to resume in-person bridge. Doug now has games on four nights of the week, all of which begin at 7:10 pm.

***Unit 502 \$2 Per Person Subsidy to EBCBC for Thursday 999er Game - Continue or Terminate? (Libby):** The EBCBC has requested that Unit 502 continue to support the Thursday 999er game by continuing our \$2 per person subsidy. The subsidy by Unit 502 is intended to help "grow the game." However, attendance for this game had been falling during the first quarter. Gail reported that since early March, she has been carefully monitoring the game and encouraging eligible players to support it. There have now been 10 straight weeks with sufficient participation

for a game. The average game size during this period has been 4 to 5 tables. Additional growth in the game would be welcomed. There was some discussion about whether to continue the subsidy prior to the Board voting unanimously to continue the subsidy through the end of the third quarter. Gail will continue to monitor the attendance at this game and encourage participation. Thanks Gail!

***District 21 Report from the Continuation of the January 9, 2021 Board Meeting (Marcia):** There have been many follow-up meetings to the January 9, 2021 Board Meeting. The D21 Board has discussed/decided/reported:

- a) Tracy Bauer, the new D21 President, continues to focus primarily on financial matters in order to reduce expenses and limit the financial risks to D21.
- b) There have been numerous meetings and clean-up work to address the problems.
- c) D21 has hired a lawyer to provide legal advice on financial and other matters.
- d) There appears to be a new D21 Secretary, but it isn't clear who it is.
- e) The D21 Treasurer resigned; Andy Wasserman is now the temporary Treasurer.

***Sectionals (Libby):** Libby reported on our on-going search for an alternative location for future Sectionals by Tina, Estelle and Esther. As you recall, the Oakland Masonic Center (OMC) is closed and for sale. So far, Hiram Hall is the most viable option, and they have us "penciled-in" for the next three Sectionals (November 2021, and June and November 2022). The downside is that their rental rate is nearly double what we had been paying for the OMC (\$4500 vs \$2500 for 2 days). The Unit 502 Board will continue to search for other options, but so-far those options (Transfiguration Church, Merritt College and Holy Redeemer Church) have not been responsive. Estelle researched Merritt College and Holy Redeemer Church (at Golf Links Road), and Tina researched the Transfiguration Church in Castro Valley. Since Esther has moved to La Quinta, Joseph will transition to the lead on negotiations with Hiram Hall. Larry suggested the possibility of a joint Sectional with South County Unit 500 in November at the Transfiguration Church. Tina said that she would follow-up on the suggestion.

After much discussion, the Board decided to postpone its decision about whether to cancel the November 20-21, 2021 Sectional until the August 1, 2021 meeting.

4) **New Business** (Libby)

***There will be at least three Board Vacancies as of January 1, 2022:** Libby has indicated to the retiring Board Members (Esther, Neal and Pam) that they need to find their own replacements. Libby also urged all other Board Members to think about recruiting players that might be interested in becoming Board Members. Several possible replacements were mentioned. There is urgency to this search, since the process for filling vacant Board positions begins August 1! We will need to either hold an election, or post a notice of uncontested election (ie., announce that we have found replacements to exactly fill the Board vacancies).

***Other Announcements:** Unfortunately, Robert Alfandary passed away recently. Julie Burnet has moved to Rossmoor and will be transferring to Unit 499. Susan Boyers will be moving to Reno and transferring to Unit 473.

***Board Calendar for 2021 Meeting Dates (see below):** As reported in the January 17, 2021 Board Meeting minutes, if in-person bridge resumes in late 2021, Marcia Wasserman will be the lead for the Holiday Party in December 2021. Since Susan Boyers is moving to Reno, we will need to find someone else to coordinate the Tunnel Tourney with Unit 499 in September or October. While these events are still possible, it is unclear whether the pandemic will have receded enough to allow in-person bridge by then.

5) Our **next** Unit 502 Board **meeting** is August 1, 2021.

6) The meeting was **adjourned** at 11:10 am.

Submitted by,

Larry Bowerman
Secretary, Unit 502 Board

Unit 502 Board Meetings in 2021: January 17, March 21, May 16, August 1, September 19, and November 7.

Upcoming 2021 Events (This list is based on our yearly pre-pandemic schedules. The ACBL has cancelled all in-person events through July 31, 2021, and all events after that date are also subject to cancellation due to COVID-19):

Charity Game (Estelle, Monica, Esther and Tina)

Pizza Swiss Games: May and Oct? (Joseph Held and Pam Sawyer)

NAP Games in June, July, August and September (final) [Marcia Wasserman]

Sectional on June 26 and 27 (cancelled)

July 4 Independence Day Picnic (Karen and Bob Cabrera will continue to do the grilling, and Tina Heldman has signed up to shop, etc. An event coordinator and more volunteers are needed for this event.)

Tunnel Tournament in September or October

Sectional on November 20 & 21 (We need one or two volunteers to be in charge of the tournament; as usual, numerous other volunteers are needed)

Holiday Banquet: December 5th? (Marcia Wasserman)