

Meeting Minutes
East Bay Unit 502 Board of Directors
August 1, 2021

The meeting of the East Bay Unit 502 Board of Directors was called to order at 10:15 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, Joseph Held, Don Levine, Gail Oraftik, Libby Silver and Marcia Wasserman.

Missing Board Members: Estelle Baum, Monica Deutsch, Tina Heldman, Neal Mazaroff, Esther Rubke and Pam Sawyer.

1) The **minutes** for the May 16, 2021 meeting were approved.

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

Treasurer Susan Bailey reported on the current status of Unit 502 finances. Our current assets = \$29,995.09 (as of 8/1/21). 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 primarily the monthly website/internet bills. Donations to the EBCBC to support the Thursday 999er game won't continue beyond the second quarter as far as we know right now, but things could change.

3) **Old Business:**

***Report on Status of EBCBC and Piedmont Online Games (Libby):** Prior to the meeting, Libby forwarded two emails from Tom Pajak (EBCBC) and one from Doug Handler. The EBCBC weekly (or sometimes monthly) newsletters continue as the principal source of information about the EBCBC. The EBCBC reopened for in-person bridge on June 21, 2021. In general, game attendance has been about one half of what it was pre-pandemic. Doug Handler has reported to Libby that his online bridge games are doing well, and that they will continue online for now. Doug now has games on four days of the week: Monday and Thursday games begin at 7:10 pm., Tuesday and Wednesday games begin at 2:10 pm.

***EBCBC's Thursday 999er Game - (Libby):** Due principally to Gail's efforts to encourage players to attend, the 999er game grew a bit and consistently had 4 to 6 tables from about late March to late-June 2021. However, after the EBCBC opened for in-person bridge, attendance for this game decreased and there were often too few players to hold the game. The EBCBC has been considering making the Thursday game an online game again and charging \$6 per entry. However, it will be an open

game instead of a 999er game. Libby agreed to send an email to the EBCBC offering to continue the \$2 subsidy and Gail's assistance, if the 999er game is continued. Subsequent to the meeting Libby sent the email, but for the moment, the EBCBC plans to keep the Thursday online game as an open game.

***District 21 Report (Don):** Don Levine attended the most recent D21 Board Meeting. His first impressions are the meetings are very contentious, and as a result, not much is accomplished. Don didn't report any specific accomplishments from the last meeting.

***November 2021 Sectional (Libby and Joseph):** Libby and Joseph reported on our on-going search for alternative locations for future Sectionals. 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 has continued to search for other options, but so-far those options (Transfiguration Church, Merritt College and Holy Redeemer Church) have not become viable. There is also a possible site in Chinatown, but the parking would be expensive (\$2/hour) and there are very limited bathrooms.

After much discussion, the Board decided to postpone its decision about whether to cancel the November 20-21, 2021 Sectional until at least the September 19, 2021 meeting, and possibly until sometime in October. There are still too many unknowns regarding the delta variant of COVID-19 and the venues.

***Resumption of Sunday Unit Games (Joseph):** As with the November 2021 Sectional, there are still too many unknowns to decide on whether to resume the Sunday Unit Games (including COVID-19, likely attendance, etc.). Again, after much discussion of the pros and cons, the Board decided to postpone making a decision on this issue until the next Board Meeting on September 19, 2021. In order to gather more information, Libby agreed to write a message to be sent to Unit 502 members requesting their interest in playing and/or their concerns about the November Sectional and the resumption of the Sunday Unit Games.

4) **New Business** (Libby)

***There will be at least three Board Vacancies as of January 1, 2022 (Larry):** There are three retiring Board Members (Esther, Neal and Pam) this year. Libby appointed Joseph and Marcia as the Nominating Committee, and they recommended Cole Powell, Kathy Wolf and Donna Rolle as replacements. The Board approved these three recommendations. Thanks to Marcia for her excellent recruiting efforts! We will need to post a notice that: 1) there will be three Board vacancies as of 1/1/2022, 2) the Board has recommended replacements to exactly fill the three vacancies, and 3) identify the three recommended replacements not later than

September 30, 2021. Larry will research further and draft the required notice for posting at the EBCBC and on the Unit 502 website.

***Tunnel Tourney (TT) (Libby):** The Units have agreed on October 24, 2021 as the date. The TT will be held at the EBCBC, since Unit 502 is the host this year. The TT will consist of 2 sessions of 24 boards each. Don and Estelle will run the TT.

*Marcia will be in charge of running the **September 12, 2021 NAP Final** at the EBCBC.

***Other Announcements:**

***Board Calendar for 2021 Meeting Dates (see below):** Since in-person bridge has resumed at the EBCBC, Marcia Wasserman will be the lead for the 9/12/21 NAP game and for the Holiday Party in December 2021 (if held). Since Susan Boyers has moved to Reno, Estelle and Don will share responsibility for coordinating the Tunnel Tourney with Unit 499 on October 24, 2021. While both events are still possible, the pandemic could impact the viability of these events.

5) Our **next** Unit 502 Board **meeting** is September 19, 2021.

6) The meeting was **adjourned** at 11:18 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 tournaments through August 30, 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 on October 24, 2021

Sectional on November 20 & 21 (Decision on whether to hold the Sectional will be made in September or October. If held, we'll need one or two volunteers to be in charge and numerous other volunteers to make it successful)

Holiday Banquet: December 5th? (Marcia Wasserman)