

Meeting Minutes
East Bay Unit 502 Board of Directors
September 19, 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, Estelle Baum, Larry Bowerman, Joseph Held, Gail Oraftik, Libby Silver and Marcia Wasserman.

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

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

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

Treasurer Susan Bailey reported on the current status of Unit 502 finances. Our current assets = \$29,949.14 (as of 9/19/21). This is a decrease of about \$55 from the 8/1/21 balance. The major sources of income during the first, second and third 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 were donations to the EBCBC (about \$660), the monthly website/internet bills and a small loss at the NAP Finals on 9/12/21. Upcoming financial activities include primarily the monthly website/internet bills. Donations to the EBCBC to support the Thursday 999er game were discontinued after June.

3) **Old Business:**

***Report on Status of EBCBC and Piedmont Online Games (Libby):** Prior to the meeting, Libby received emails from Tom Pajak (EBCBC) and Doug Handler about the status of their games. The EBCBC weekly newsletters continue as the principal source of information about the EBCBC. The EBCBC reopened for in-person bridge on June 21, 2021. Up until mid-August, game attendance had been about one half of what it was pre-pandemic. However, game attendance in the last month has declined somewhat. As a result, two on-line games have been reinstated (on Thursday and Sunday, both starting at 12 noon). Doug Handler reports that his four on-line bridge games are doing well, and that they will continue online for now. Doug's games are on: Monday and Thursday beginning at 7:10 pm, and Tuesday and Wednesday beginning at 2:10 pm. After the meeting, Libby forwarded Tom and Doug's emails to the Board Members.

***District 21 Report (Don):** Don Levine attended the most recent D21 Board Meeting on September 18, 2021. However, Don didn't attend the Unit 502 Board Meeting and so didn't report any results from the D21 Board Meeting. In a related

matter, Grant Vance recently retired and has expressed interest in being our D21 representative.

***Libby's Email Survey About Unit Games and the November 2021 Sectional:**

About a week prior to the meeting (9/11/21), Larry summarized the 8 early September responses to this survey and forwarded the results to the Board Members. The "big picture" was that there were 3 Yes and 5 No votes on Unit Games and 6 Yes and 2 No votes on the November 2021 Sectional. However, the limited number of responses makes it difficult to draw conclusions from the results. A couple of people mentioned that the limited number of responses could be an indication of concern regarding the delta variant of COVID-19 and/or a lack of interest in Unit Games and the November 2021 Sectional at this time.

***November 2021 Sectional (Libby and Joseph):** Libby and Joseph again summarized 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 (\$12/day) and there are very limited bathrooms. Given the much smaller than normal "crowd" expected to attend if the Sectional were held, the EBCBC might be the best option, since it is relatively low cost, low work, etc.

After much discussion, the Board voted 5 to 1 to cancel the November 20-21, 2021 Sectional given the uncertainty about the delta variant of COVID-19 and its likely negative impact on attendance. There are still too many unknowns regarding the delta variant of COVID-19 and its likely significant impact on attendance.

***Resumption of Sunday Unit Games (Joseph):** As with the November 2021 Sectional, there are still too many unknowns to decide to resume the Sunday Unit Games (including COVID-19, likely limited attendance, etc.). After some additional discussion of the pros and cons, the Board decided that Sunday Unit Games would not be restarted at this time. If attendance at the Monday, Wednesday and Friday games at EBCBC increases to about 10 tables (Gail is actively monitoring the attendance), we can re-visit this issue again at our November 7, 2021 Board Meeting and/or in 2022.

4) New Business (Libby)

***There will be at least three Board Vacancies as of January 1, 2022 (Larry):** At our last Board Meeting, we discussed that 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!

After that meeting Larry and Libby reviewed the By-Laws further and decided on the most appropriate course of action. The next step is to post a Notice at the EBCBC about the three upcoming Board Vacancies, the three Board recommended nominees and offering the opportunity for additional nominations. Larry has drafted the Notice and will post it at the EBCBC from 9/27/21 to 10/13/21. If there are no additional nominations, no election will be necessary and a second Notice to that effect will be posted at the EBCBC. If there are additional nominations, an election will be held. Libby raised the issue of whether we should also post the first Notice on the Unit 502 website (given that not many people actually go to the EBCBC under present circumstances). After some discussion, the Board decided that Libby would send a copy of the Notice to Unit Members via email rather than post the notice on the Unit 502 website.

***Tunnel Tourney (TT) (Libby):** Units 499 and 502 had previously agreed on October 24, 2021 as the date for the TT to be held at the EBCBC. Estelle indicated that she was not planning to run the TT. Someone also pointed out the inconsistency between cancelling the November Sectional, not restarting Sunday Unit Games and then deciding to hold the TT. The consensus decision of the Board was that we shouldn't hold the TT this year. Libby will contact Unit 499 to inform them about this new decision.

*Marcia ran the **September 12, 2021 NAP Final** at the EBCBC. Unfortunately, the attendance was much lower than expected. Only 7 qualified pairs attended, so Jo Levy and Fred Schwartz filled-in to make an 8 pair Howell movement. After the fact, Betty pointed-out to Marcia that they now pay their directors based on a sliding scale of how many people attend the game. After some discussion, the consensus of the Board was that directors for our Unit Games should be paid a flat fee rather than having the fee based on the size of the game. The director's time commitment is the same, regardless of how many people attend the game.

***Other Announcements:**

***Board Calendar for 2021 Meeting Dates (see below):** The Holiday Party in December 2021 was cancelled.

5) Our **next** Unit 502 Board **meeting** is November 7, 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 (cancelled)

Sectional on November 20 & 21 (cancelled)

Holiday Banquet: December 5th (Marcia Wasserman) (cancelled)