

Meeting Minutes
East Bay Unit 502 Board of Directors
November 7, 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, Monica Deutsch, Joseph Held, Tina Heldman, Don Levine, Gail Oraftik, Libby Silver and Marcia Wasserman.

Missing Board Members: Neal Mazaroff, Esther Rubke and Pam Sawyer.

New Board Members (beginning 1/1/2022) Attending: Cole Powell, Grant Vance and Kathy Wolf.

1) The **minutes** for the September 19, 2021 meeting were approved.

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

Treasurer Susan Bailey reported on the current status of Unit 502 finances. Our current assets = \$30,913.08 (as of 11/7/21). This is an increase of nearly \$1000 from the 9/19/21 balance and reflects the recent receipt of \$1009 in membership rebates from the ACBL. The major sources of income during 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 the monthly website/internet bills and the likely deposit of \$500 to reserve a location for the June 2022 Sectional. 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 sent emails to the EBCBC and Doug Handler about the status of their games. While no response was received from the EBCBC, its weekly newsletters continue as the principal source of information about the EBCBC games.

Doug Handler reported that his four on-line bridge games are doing well, and that they continue on the same schedule 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 Doug's email to the Board Members.

***District 21 Report (Don):** Don Levine attended the most recent D21 Board Meeting on September 18, 2021. However, Don had to leave the Unit 502 Board Meeting at 10:40 am and wasn't able to report any results from the D21 Board

Meeting. Grant Vance is also planning to attend the next D21 Board Meeting on November 18, 2021.

***Resumption of Sunday Unit Games (Libby):** This topic was discussed first. Due to recent attendance increases at the EBCBC and the dropping of the indoor mask mandate, Libby recommended that we vote to restart Unit Games beginning on November 21, 2021. The restart will be subject to the following conditions: 1) all players must show proof of vaccination, 2) start time would be 1:00 pm, 3) Table fees would be \$8 per person, 4) no free play for Board Members, 5) Fred Schwartz can direct and make boards (\$10/set), 6) Greg Vance is also available to direct and 7) we need one Board Member to “run” each game. After some discussion of the pros and cons, the Board voted unanimously to restart the Sunday Unit Games on 11/21/21. The one Board Member “running” the game will be responsible for: 1) opening and closing the EBCBC, 2) making coffee, 3) purchasing and setting out package snacks, 4) collecting the entry fees, 5) straightening the tables and chairs, after the game, 6) running the dishwasher and 7) cleaning the coffee pot (grounds go under the sink in the green bin). In return, that person will play for free. It was also mentioned that Fred often opens and closes the EBCBC, and he makes the coffee.

Towards the end of the meeting Joseph began the process of securing volunteers to cover the first four Unit Games. The following people volunteered (at least tentatively) to cover the first four games: Libby for 11/21, Grant for 12/5, Marcia for 12/19 and Joseph for 1/2. Susan indicated that she would take care of collecting the money at the beginning of the first few games. Cole requested a summary of the responsibilities of the job. In the interest of time, we agreed that Joseph would send an email to complete the process of securing the remaining volunteers.

***June 2022 Sectional (Libby, Joseph and Tina):** This topic was discussed second. Libby, Joseph and Tina again summarized our on-going search for alternative locations for future Sectionals, most pressingly for the June 2022 Sectional. As you recall, the Oakland Masonic Center (OMC) is closed and for sale. Since our last meeting, two additional sites have been investigated, the Elks Club in Alameda and the Marriott Conference Center in downtown Oakland. The other four options (Hiram Hall, the Chinatown site, Merritt College and Transfiguration Church) have been discussed in detail at previous Board Meetings. For a wide variety of reasons, none of the six options are ideal. Joseph and Estelle agreed to do follow-up on the Marriott Conference Center. Marcia agreed to follow-up on the Transfiguration Church, which in many ways seems the most ideal site. She will try to make progress by talking to Carla Francis (Unit 500 President) and Sarah Zimmerman.

After much discussion, the Board voted unanimously to have Libby and Tina negotiate further with the Elks Club with the goal being to secure that site for the June 2022 Sectional. They will visit the site, and they were given the option of renting just one room for Saturday, which would reduce the cost for the two-day

Sectional from \$4750 to about \$3200. If they are satisfied with the arrangements, Libby will make a \$500 deposit to reserve the site.

4) **New Business** (Libby)

***There will be at least three Board Vacancies as of January 1, 2022 (Larry):** At our last two Board Meetings, we discussed how best to fill the vacancies resulting from the retirement of three existing Board Members (Esther, Neal and Pam) at the end of this year. The Agenda for this meeting outlined the steps that have been taken by the Board over the last 3 months, as follows:

1) the Nominating Committee recommended Cole Powell, Kathy Wolf and Donna Rolle,

2) on September 27, 2021 the Board Secretary posted notice of 3 vacancies at the EBCBC, and a copy of that notice was sent by email to all Unit 502 members,

3) the nomination period ended on October 13, 2021,

4) Grant Vance declared his candidacy and Donna Rolle withdrew her name from consideration,

5) since there were only three candidates for three seats, no election was required, and

6) a Notice of No Election Required was posted at the EBCBC and on the Unit 502 website from October 20 to November 17, 2021.

Since the Agenda provided a good summary of the process, Larry indicated that he didn't have much to add. Larry will remove the notice at the EBCBC on November 17, 2021 and request David Snyder to remove the notice from the Unit 502 website.

***Libby thanked the three retiring Board Members (Neal Mazaroff, Esther Rubke and Pam Sawyer) for their service to Unit 502.** Unfortunately, none of the three were in attendance to hear Libby's thank you.

***The Board voted unanimously that the terms of seven Board Members would be continued for another two years, through 2022 and 2023.** The seven Board Members are: Susan Bailey, Larry Bowerman, Joseph Held, Tina Heldman, Gail Oraftik, Libby Silver and Marcia Wasserman.

***Other Announcements:**

***Board Calendar for 2021 Meeting Dates (see below):** The Board voted to restart Unit Games beginning on November 21, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Two additional Unit Games will take place this year on December 5 and 19, 2021.

5) Our **next** Unit 502 Board **meeting** is January 16, 2022. The other Board meetings in 2022 will take place on 3/20/22, 5/1/22, 8/7/22, 9/18/22 and 11/6/22.

6) The meeting was **adjourned** at 11:20 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)

Unit Games on November 21, December 5 and December 19, 2021

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