

Meeting Minutes
East Bay Unit 502 Board of Directors
March 21, 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.

1) The **minutes** for the January 17, 2021 meeting were approved.

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

Treasurer Susan Bailey reported on the current status of Unit 502 finances as of March 21, 2021. Our current assets = \$29,345.84 (as of 3/21/21). The major sources of income during the first quarter of 2021 were the membership renewal rebates from ACBL (each Unit receives about 11% of the membership renewal fees paid to the ACBL). The major outflows during the first quarter were donations to the EBCBC (about \$380) and the monthly website/internet bills. Upcoming financial activities include the refund of the \$1500 deposit to the Masonic Center (received a few days after our meeting), 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 emails from Tom Pajak (EBCBC) and Doug Handler. The EBCBC now issues weekly newsletters which have become the principal source of information about the EBCBC. Tom reported that the EBCBC continues to “break even” (or make a small profit) and has reasonable reserves due to past donations by unit members. However, they are concerned about the recent declines in attendance at several of their weekly games. Doug Handler has reported to Libby that his website is the best way for people to find out the latest news about his Piedmont games. Doug has recently added two new nightly games to his calendar on Saturday and Sunday 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 in this game has been falling. Gail reported that in February and early March there were four straight weeks of no Thursday game due to insufficient registrations. To get the

game going again, Gail started an attendance monitoring system. In the two weeks since she began this process, the game has had 5 tables and 4 tables, respectively. Additional growth in the game would be welcomed. However, Gail indicated that the game is still profitable for the EBCBC even at a participation level of 3 tables! There was some further discussion about whether to continue the subsidy prior to the Board voting to continue the subsidy for another 3 months. Susan will write the EBCBC a check covering the first quarter subsidy in late March/early April 2021 and again in June. Gail will continue to monitor the attendance at this game. Thanks Gail!

***District 21 Report from the Continuation of the January 9, 2021 Board Meeting (Marcia):** At the continuation of the January 9, 2021 Board Meeting, the D21 Board discussed/decided/reported:

- a) Somewhat surprisingly, a new President was nominated and elected – Tracy Bauer.
- b) Initially, her main focus will be on financial matters. Changes are likely in order to reduce expenses and limit the financial risks to D21.
- c) Sandi Davis has announced that she will be retiring as D21 Secretary. A search is on to find a replacement. Marcia is part of the search committee.
- d) Regarding the publication of the “Diamond in the Ruff” (DIR), it is very expensive to publish, so it may be transitioned to in-house publication. Tracy Bauer is concerned about the DIR as part of her focus on D21 financial matters.
- e) The ACBL has begun to investigate the need for some kind of proof of vaccination in anticipation of an eventual return to in-person bridge.

***Sectionals (Libby):** Libby reported that: 1) ACBL has cancelled the June 2021 Sectional, 2) the Oakland Masonic Center (OMC) is closed and for sale, 3) the OMC will send us a check for \$1500 to refund our deposit for the November 2021 Sectional (Libby received the check a few days after the meeting), and 4) we need to search for an alternative location for future Sectionals. There was discussion about the search for an alternative location. Esther spoke with Hiram Hall and they have us “penciled-in” for the next three Sectionals (through 2022). However, the Unit 502 Board will continue to search for the best option. Estelle agreed to research Merritt College and Holy Redeemer Church (at Golf Links Road), which we have used in the past. Tina agreed to research the Transfiguration Church in Castro Valley. The South County Unit 500 uses the Transfiguration Church for its Sectionals.

4) **New Business** (Libby)

***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, Susan Boyers will coordinate the Tunnel Tourney with Unit 499 in September or October, and Marcia Wasserman will be the lead for the Holiday Party in December 2021. While these events are still possible, it seems highly unlikely that the pandemic will have receded enough to allow in-person bridge by then.

5) Our **next** Unit 502 Board **meeting** is May 16, 2021.

6) The meeting was **adjourned** at 10:55 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 (Julie Burnet and Gail Oraftik; as usual, numerous volunteers are needed)

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 (Susan Boyers)

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)