

Meeting Minutes
East Bay Unit 502 Board of Directors
September 20, 2020

The meeting of the East Bay Unit 502 Board of Directors was called to order at 10:05 am (via Zoom conference call) by President Libby Silver. Thank you to Joseph for making the Zoom arrangements!

Attending Board Members: Susan Bailey, Estelle Baum, Larry Bowerman, Joseph Held, Tina Heldman, Don Levine, Neal Mazaroff, Gail Oraftik, and Libby Silver.

Missing Board Members: Monica Deutsch, Esther Rubke, Pam Sawyer and Marcia Wasserman.

1) The **minutes** for the August 2, 2020 meeting were approved.

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

Treasurer Susan Bailey reported on the current status of the Unit 502 finances as of the end of August 2020. Our checking account balance plus cash is currently about \$28,500. Our assets continue to decline by about \$300.00 per month due to the \$274 donation to the EBCBC plus our monthly internet bill of \$22.95. Since the pandemic began, we have contributed \$1644 to the EBCBC.

3) **Old Business:**

***November 20-21, 2020 Sectional:** Libby had a conversation with Kosta of the Oakland Masonic Center (OMC) about the \$1500 deposit for the November 2020 Sectional. Kosta assured Libby that the OMC is solvent, so the OMC will keep the \$1500 deposit in anticipation of the June 2021 Sectional. There is certainly a chance that the June 2021 Sectional will be cancelled due to the pandemic, but that hasn't happened yet.

Libby also mentioned that in May the D21 Board discussed the possibility of terminating the lease of the van for Calvin who transports card tables, bidding boxes and other essential equipment for running a Sectional/Regional. This probably came up since it could be quite some time before in-person Sectionals and Regionals are conducted. After a thorough discussion, the D21 Board decided not to terminate the lease for the van.

***Unit Donation to EBCBC - Continue or Terminate?** There was a lot of discussion about whether to continue our \$274 monthly donation to the EBCBC (to make up for the rent that the Unit would normally pay to the EBCBC for our two Unit games each month). Tom's recent email indicates that the EBCBC had a modest profit of about \$150 in August. Gail mentioned that there are continuing indications that online attendance is declining, including reduced weekly table counts, the cancellation of the

Thursday open game and the last-minute cancellation of individual games due to insufficient table counts. There is some indication that the lower table counts may be due to the higher cost of the EBCBC games and some frustration with having to compete with very high-level players in the open games. Don, Tina and Susan suggested that we urge the EBCBC to institute a “limited game” (999 or 1499 maximum) to attract additional players and that the Board consider subsidizing the entry fees for 2 or 3 months to try to “grow” the new game. There was a lot of discussion about this issue. Libby agreed to draft an email to the EBCBC suggesting that they consider a new “limited game” and indicating our willingness to subsidize it on a trial basis. Our subsidy would take the form of reducing the entry fees from \$8 to \$6 for 2 or 3 months.

4) **New Business** (Libby)

***Report on Status of EBCBC and Piedmont Online Games:** Prior to our meeting Libby had forwarded emails from Tom Pajak and Doug Handler on the status of their games. This discussion became part of the discussion about our monthly donation to EBCBC. There was a lot of discussion about feedback for the EBCBC.

*The Board approved that members Esther Rubke, Estelle Baum, Don Levine and Monica Deutsch will continue for another 2-year term (Bylaws Article VII.C).

*No Election of Board members is required for 2021 since the other 9 board members agreed to continue serving through 2021. Libby and Larry will work to ensure that a notice of uncontested election is posted on the Unit 502 website by October 1, 2020.

*At their Board meeting in early September, the D21 Board decided to move to quarterly (instead of monthly) publication of the “Diamond in the Ruff” (DIR). The next publication will be either in October or December 2020, but that isn’t completely clear. Larry has written an article for October just in case, and he will submit it later today. Even if there isn’t an October DIR, as always, David Snyder will post Larry’s article on the Unit 502 website.

*Results of the District 21 Director Election: Stu Goodgold narrowly defeated Jackie Zayak in the election for the position of the District 21 Representative to the ACBL Board.

*Goodwill award nominations are due 11/1/20: David Snyder and Neal Mazaroff were suggested as nominees. David has already won a Goodwill Award, so he isn’t eligible. Neal is eligible, but he respectfully declined, despite some serious “arm twisting” by several Board members.

5) Our **next** Unit 502 Board **meeting** is November 1, 2020.

6) The meeting was **adjourned** at 11:12 am.

Submitted by,

Larry Bowerman
Secretary, Unit 502 Board

Upcoming Unit 502 Board meetings: November 1.

Upcoming 2020 Events:**

*NAP Games on June 7, July 19, August 16 and September 13 (final) [Marcia Wasserman] - cancelled

*Tunnel Tournament on October 3 (Susan Boyers) - cancelled

*Charity Game (Estelle, Monica, Esther and Tina) - cancelled

*Sectional: Nov. 21 & 22 (Julie Burnet and Gail Oraftik; as usual, numerous other volunteers will also be needed) - cancelled

*Holiday Banquet: December 6 (Marcia Wasserman; Andy is in charge of purchasing and cooking the turkeys) - cancelled

**All of these events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.