

Unit 144 TN Bridge Association  
Annual Meeting  
January 2, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Larry Alexander - President  
Cecile Skaggs- Vice President  
Judy Knox –Secretary  
Bill Demetriou  
Neil Brackley  
Linda Sherrell - Absent

The Annual Unit 144 Meeting was originally scheduled for November 12, 2014. However, due to the fact that we did not have a quorum present, it has been re-scheduled to January 2, 2015 at 5pm at the Nate Silverstein Tournament. There are 52 members present today.

The meeting was called to order at 5:25 pm by Larry Alexander, Unit 144 President. A motion was made by Frank Perlman to dispense with the reading of the minutes from last year and to approve them as written. It was seconded by Jane Eason. The motion passed. (See Exhibit A attached for copy of the minutes)

Treasurer's Report

Linda Thompson was our treasurer but she resigned from the board due to personal reasons and Larry has been acting as Treasurer. Larry appointed Neil Brackley to replace Linda and he appointed Judy Knox to become Secretary/Treasurer. Larry gave us the following checking and savings account balances as of today. We have no formal financial statement since Linda retired in December, 2014.

Checking Account Balance: \$1,922.18  
Savings Account Balance: \$35,886.13

Discussion

A questions was asked by Sherry Thaxton as to how many signatures are required to sign a check for the Unit. Larry stated that only one is required. Larry or Judy can write checks. Someone suggested we have a third person designated to sign checks in case something happens to both Larry and Judy at the same time. Larry said we will take that up at the next Board of Director's meeting.

Last year at Nate Silverstein we made \$1,518.67 profit for 2014. The Sky Rocket Sectional netted us \$2,725.63 profit for 2014 and we made \$10, 033.73 net profit from the Tunica tournament in 2014. Copies of these financial statements are available. We don't have enough for everybody today.

Old Business

Amy Downing pointed out that this is the second time we have not had a formal financial statement. Larry pointed out that there is a financial statement on the Unit web page. There was much discussion regarding why there are no financial statements prepared for the Unit. Larry checked with ACBL and they said we do not have to have audited financial statements.

Larry stated that we transferred ownership of the Land and the building back to M.A. Lightman Bridge Club. Since 1994 the Unit has owned the property. Lightman had financial problems and transferred the building and property to the Unit in 1994. We have been having to pay for repairs and up keep on the building and property. Now that we have transferred the property back to M. A. Lightman, we don't have those expenses. That has helped our bottom line.

Someone asked where we keep the tables for the tournament. Larry said we keep them in a trailer at Mick McGuire's house. Ed Davis always takes care of moving the tables. Ed has resigned from all bridge. He is tired of looking over his shoulder every time he does something for the Unit or for the club.

New Business

This past year, we tried to have our annual meeting in November and could not get a quorum. We have to tie the meeting to an event like a bridge game, but last year we held our annual meeting and election and Holiday dinner all in one night. The meeting took so long that a lot of people got up and walked out and were very angry about having to miss our bridge game. It was a disaster and we don't want that to happen again. We will no longer schedule our annual meeting and election together. We will try to have some other function to help bring people to the meeting. A complaint was filed with District 10

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against the Unit for having an illegal election since we did not follow the Bylaws and have the annual meeting in late November. (See Exhibit B attached for notes of this complaint.)

Judy Knox made a motion to change the original wording of the By Laws on page 2, Article IV- Membership Meetings, paragraph A which states: "There shall be an annual membership meeting held in conjunction with a tournament or other Unit 144 function in late November or early December."

The new paragraph will state: "A. There shall be an annual membership meeting held in conjunction with the annual election of the Board of Directors. The meeting shall take place in the month of November or December unless the Board of Directors determine it is in the best interest of the Unit 144 members to have the meeting on another date."

The motion was seconded by Jane Eason. The motion passed.

Jan Dacus made a motion that we hire a parliamentarian for all future Unit 144 meetings. Lee Smart seconded the motion. There was much discussion regarding hiring or trying to get someone to serve as Parliamentarian. They are too expensive to hire. We will try to find someone who is qualified to serve as parliamentarian for the Unit.

Clair Berry amended the motion to say "if Possible". There was a lot more discussion regarding this motion and the amendment. The President should not have to keep an unruly crowd in order while he is trying to keep the meeting running. Larry said he will read Robert's Rules of order and try to keep better order of the meetings in the future.

Larry called for a vote on Clair's motion to amend Jan's motion. There was much discussion regarding how to handle the motion for amendment. Larry called for a vote on the motion by Clair to amend the motion made by Jan. The motion passed.

Larry called for a vote on Jan's motion to find a Parliamentarian if possible to be present at Unit 144 meetings and help keep the meeting in order. The motion passed.

Amy Downing made a motion to amend article IV, paragraph C of the By Laws to say that vacancies on the Board of directors will be filled by the next person who got the most votes in the previous election. Larry stated that we cannot amend the By Laws without giving a 30 day notice to all members. We can do this at the next Annual meeting.

There was much discussion regarding Unit Championship games and special Unit games and how and why these games are not held more often. The Unit cannot require clubs to have special unit games. These games are made available to the clubs but do not require them to have these games. There are 24 Unit Championship games available to all Unit 144 clubs every year. Mick has scheduled 16 of them for 2015. That only leaves Judy, Joyce and Brian 8 games to divide among the 3.

Jan Dacus made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judy Knox*

Judy Knox, Secretary Unit 144