

January Minutes from Unit 356 Monthly Unit Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 on January 3, 2016 at Las Candelas. Barry Abrahams, Ann Hinge, Ann Shaylor, Ken Grafton, Cindy Shoemaker, Mindy Hawkins, Joan Merrill, Adair Karlin, Steve Reynolds and Betsy O'Dell were present.

The December meeting minutes were approved. Officers were voted on and approved. There was a motion to approve Carolyn Reynolds as treasurer. Carolyn wants checks and receipts sent to her to be labeled so that what they are for is clear. Treasurer reports will be made using check book and XL spreadsheet reports. ACBL requires a published report.

Ken Grafton is the ethics recorder (conduct ethics). Ann Shaylor, Steve Reynolds and Les Balascoe are on the disciplinary committee.

Joan Merrill is the hospitality chair and club manager. She would like people to volunteer to take care of shopping, cooking, set-up and clean-up for some of the unit games.

Judd Jones will be in charge of the by-laws and caddies.

Ann Hinge will be the Web Master.

Rudy Martinez will be in charge of partnerships.

Education will be handled by committee. Adair Karlin will get regional speakers. The publicity committee will consist of Mindy Hawkins, Steve Reynolds, Cindy Shoemaker, Barry Abrahams and Ann Shaylor. Adair will schedule a publicity committee meeting. Flyers need to be done for April. Facebook, flyers, sectional speakers, and Forum articles will be the responsibility of this committee.

If someone gets banned from one club, many people have expressed concerns that this should then apply to all clubs. This needs to be suggested to club managers.

Cindy discussed how to attract I/N players to unit games, club games and tournaments. Discounts on fees, visible registration online, email blasts were some ideas. Many I/N players would like their own section and not be part of the main game. Also, 2 evening games for Gold Rush players at tournaments were discussed. Local directors could be used for these games.

The following events are scheduled:

Jan. 7 - 10 sectional at Hotel Tucson

April 11 - 14 (Monday to Thursday) sectional at Hotel Tucson

June 12 Member Appreciation Game at Skyline Country Club

Sept. 22 - 25 NLM Regional at Hotel Tucson

Dec. 11 Holiday Game at Hotel Tucson

Regional 2017 to be determined

Respectfully submitted by Betsy O'Dell 1/4/2016 (amended per February board meeting)

February Minutes from Unit 356 Monthly Unit Meeting

The meeting was called to order on March 6, 2016 at 11:00 at Las Candelas Bridge Club. Anne Hinge, Adair Karlin, Joan Merrill, Ken Grafton, Cindy Shoemaker, Steve Reynolds, Barry Abrahams, Mindy Hawkins and Betsy O'Dell were present.

The January 2016 minutes were amended and will be sent to board members.

Barry updated titles and jobs of board members and will send e-mail addresses of board members to the secretary.

Mindy and Cindy are doing flyers for the events. Mindy is the contact person. The spring flyer is complete.

The treasurer report was discussed and it was noted that the new format was much easier to understand.

Cindy had many observations and info about NLM games and players. She noted the following:

1. There were 16 NLM tables at the last unit game.
2. Flyers for the last unit game were sent to NLM players and were available at the clubs. Flyers were sent for the March unit game and will be sent for unit games in the future.
3. The flyers and word of mouth helped to expand the unit game with NLM players. Once NLM players have enough players for their own section, more players come to the game.
4. Cindy uses Constant Contact to communicate with NLM players. The master point spread for NLM players is 0 to 749 master points.
5. Currently there are 499 players in the unit on the NLM list. 49% of the unit are NLM players. 51% of the unit are Life Masters. Cindy will promote NLM games and Steve will promote open games.
6. NLM regional is 9-22-16 to 9-25-16 in Tucson. Lecturers will be Barbara Rosenthal, Ken Badertscher and Ken Monzingo. NLM players will get \$2.00 discount at Gold rush pairs.

The Pro-Am team game will be on Sunday, May 22. Pro players will have 500+ master points. Am players will have less than 500 master points.

Senior Olympics is usually a Saturday in January. An exact date is needed. Suni has agreed to host it at Las Candelas. He will supply the equipment and the city will supply the snacks and beverages.

Streams will hold a unit game in 2017 on a Saturday. It will be open and NLM. Pre-registration was suggested because of the volume.

Because of some recent disciplinary actions, Steve and Ken are going to review the disciplinary code of rules and actions. A motion was approved to send a letter to other clubs in the unit to create a conversation about discipline rules and actions. The letter will be designed to encourage cooperation among all the clubs in the unit to respect and honor actions by other clubs in unit 356.

Tucson Expo Center has time and space available for bridge tournaments. There is a food prep area and all drinks will be supplied by the center. There are also hotels nearby for players who need lodging.

At the April unit game, Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards will be awarded.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy O'Dell 3-6-2016

April Meeting Unit 356

The meeting was called to order on April 24, 2016 at Adobe Bridge Club. Anne Hinge, Adair Karlin, Ken Grafton, Cindy Shoemaker, Steve Reynolds, Barry Abrahams, Mindy Hawlins, Ann Shaylor and Betsy O'Dell were present.

General discussion

The February minutes were approved.

The treasurer report was announced as on track and stable.

It was suggested that Darwin will need to work on the Good Will candidate.

The membership is down about 34 members. This is due mostly to snowbirds going back to their own units.

Chris Hasney is trying to get a grant for a ACBL college level course for bridge at a community college near Sierra Vista.

Sectionals

It looks as if the sectional made money. Swiss has had about 42 tables on Sundays. There were 49 on Thursday. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday tables were up. Wednesday tables were down like Saturdays at regular sectionals.

STAC games

STAC games are harming attendance at sectionals. Sectional attendance is down nationally. Gold Rush pairs (750 master point limit) are needed to get more people to sectionals.

Regionals

The regional at Grand Lux had poor facilities and attendance. Rooms at nearby Hampton Inn would be \$129.00+. There was no consideration for director accommodations.

The next regional in Tucson will be at the Radisson (formerly Clarion/Holiday Inn). Ten rooms will be 1/2 off and there will be 2 comp rooms. There will be no attrition costs. We only pay for rooms used. Rooms that have been renovated will be \$119.00. Rooms that have not been renovated will be \$109.00. Suites will be \$129.00. There will be pastries and salmon in the morning. We will do a cold buffet and they will have a hot buffet for lunch. The restaurant will also be open.

Upcoming Events

Hotel Tucson

1. NLM Regional September 22 - 25
2. Sectional November 17 - 20
3. Sectional January 5 - 8

The February - March regional will be February 27 to March 5 at the Radisson Hotel.

Senior Olympics will be on 1-29-2017.

There will be no unit game at Streams in 2017.

The next unit game will be on 5-15. There will be Swiss team training before the game for NLM.

NLM Regional

Is it possible to attach an open sectional to a NLM regional? It was discussed and decided that we should not tamper with success. A patch for the NLM regional was designed and may be put on t-shirts and card holders. T-shirts may be used as potential prizes. There will be a dinner with the pros during the NLM regional. ACBL president will visit the regional.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy O'Dell on May 5, 2016.

Unit 356 Board of Directors Meeting 7-10-2016 Las Candelas Bridge Club

Members present were Adair Karlin, Barry Abrahams, Jud Jones, Steve Reynolds, Joan Merrill, Ann Shaylor, Mindy Hawkins, Cindy Shoemaker, Anne Hinge, Betsy O'Dell and D17 Representative Darwin Afdahl.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved. There were no comments about the treasurer report from the board. Darwin stated that the next D17 meeting would be in Phoenix.

Membership in the unit is up 51 member from the same time last year.

Commercial printing - The price for 2 sided 8x10 is about \$329.00. Recommendations for future flyers are needed.

There were 8 full tables at the last unit game. Verbal communications, Streams, and e-mail blasts can be credited for this. The NLM people often stay for Jared's and Barbara's classes.

Fees - Tucson has a very cheap card fee. The fee is now \$7.00. There was discussion about a \$6.00 unit game fee. It will be discussed after the first of the year. NLM fees are \$3.00.

ACBL District 17 board election - We will send in as a unit. Barry will take care of the submittal.

The September unit game will be in Catalina. There will be a 30 minute training session on knockouts. The purpose is to encourage NLM to play at the NLM regional and the open regional.

The unit records need consolidation in one place possibly a trailer.

Adobe Bridge situation

- a. Their lease is up and options need to be sorted out.
- b. Barry wanted the board's view on a short term cash advance to Adobe. There were mixed opinions.

Regional prizes - There are some T-shirts in the trailer to sell. \$15.00 for each shirt will make money. Prizes should be a different color than the ones being sold. Further discussion needs to be done to finalize decision.

NLM regional

- a. Speakers - Thursday - Barbara Rosenthal, Friday - Ken Badertscher, Saturday ACBL president Ken Monzingo
- b. Everything is completed including the patch.

November Sectional

- a. The flyers are done.
- b. Ann Shaylor has speakers but needs to list their topics.
Eric Swanson, Ken Grafton, Jared Boulds
- c. Color coded events on flyers are easier to read. This is done for regionals but not sectionals.
- d. Caddies - Flyers will be put up in colleges and an article in the Kibuttzer to recruit caddies.

Regional at Radisson

- a. 1600 to 1700 tables are average
- b. If there are 1900 tables, extra space will be needed.

Other Events

- a. The Holiday flyer is done.
- b. Venues through April for events are set up.
- c. 2017 Member Appreciation game is set for Skyline Country Club.
- d. The mentoring program is continuing at Adobe. Unit mentoring programs depend on the Adobe situation.
- e. A decision must be made by August for Senior Olympics. Al Spadt should be asked if Suni's building is not available.

Board Members

- a. Barry, Ken, Ann, Adair and Steve are up for re-election. They were asked if they wanted to continue as a board member. Ken was not at the meeting. Barry said probably unless he was on the Adobe board. Steve, Ann and Adair said yes.
- b. Will Cindy be a board member or I/N representative?
- c. There is a nominating committee meeting in August.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy O'Dell July 25, 2016

August 7, 2016 Unit 356 minutes of Board Meeting

Members present: Anne Hinge Ann Shaylor, Joan Merrill, Darwin Afdahl, Steve Reynolds, Jud Jones and Betsy O'Dell

July minutes were accepted. Joan Merrill made a motion to accept and Steve Reynolds seconded the motion.

There were no questions on the treasurer's report.

D17 Darwin said that Bonnie has been automatically accepted because the name of her opponent, John, was taken off the ballot.

There are about 1/2 dozen new members a month. A breakdown of members by zip code was done.

Hotel Tucson's renovation work is almost done. A room was comped for the ACBL president. They are working on having rooms upgraded. This might be an issue for the NLM regional but not the Tucson sectional.

There is a NLM regional in Phoenix in October. This is within two weeks of our tournament and might affect our attendance.

It is important to make sure that Small Slams Bridge Club at Saddlebrook (on Thursday) is invited to our NLM tournament.

NLM tournament prizes include stickers, T-shirts, and convention card holders. There is also a drawing for a prize at the White Stallion Ranch.

Ann will publicize the NLM tournament and other tournaments at Streams.

Flyers were put on the bulletin boards at Pima Community College and the U of A for caddies. Caddie pay will be changed to \$10 an hour from \$30 a session. There will be a need to be on top of the hours worked. A maximum of \$40 was suggested.

The tournaments for November and January are on track. Ann needs to find speakers for the January sectional. Ann and Adair are working on speakers for the regional at the end of March. Possible speakers were discussed.

The restaurant at the Radisson is really cooperative. There will be three lunch choices.
sitting down in the restaurant
hot buffet (sitting at our tables)
our buffet (sandwiches and salad)

The Radisson is being asked to make a deal about people staying at the hotel. If staying on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, possibly Sunday could be free. If staying Monday

through Friday, possibly Saturday and Sunday could be free. The carpeting in the ballroom and the lighting improvements will or will not be done. We have no control over it.

Suni has donated 20 tables to the unit. He donated 140 chairs to the Greek Church. It is understood that we can borrow these chairs if needed. This will save us money.

We have 28 Bridgmates. We need about 60. We need to buy approximately 35. If 45 are ordered, the cost would be \$126 a unit. 35 would be \$140 a unit. Steve suggested that we try to use the 28 that we have toward the 60 needed to get a better rate. The unit contribution would be \$2400 as the cost for 5 years of rental fees. The unit was asked to spot the money to buy Bridgmates. If we had them, we could save money on caddies. The directors bring their own Bridgmates to regional tournaments except for NLM regional tournaments. We have 5 times where we could use them. They include Skyline Member Appreciation Game, the Holiday Game, the two sectionals and the NLM regional. A motion was made by Joan to pass our unit contribution for the Bridgmates. It was seconded by Ann. If Adobe Bridge Club ever goes under, 1/2 of the Bridgmates would go to the unit and the other half would go to charity.

Cindy is looking into prices for flyers to be printed. It was suggested that she needs to discuss this at the next board meeting before a decision is made.

Are bulletins needed at regional tournaments? They are labor intensive and expensive. Darwin will find out if the information could be put on the website only. There needs to be further discussion with Adair, Cindy and Darwin. It was suggested that people without computer skills might be upset.

The flyers for the NLM regional are ready to go to Phoenix.

Old Pueblo regional is the Tucson Winter Regional. We needed to put time and location in the title for marketing purposes. Darwin said that as long as D17 is on the flyer, the name does not matter.

Jud will instruct on Wednesdays. There will be 4-5 boards each week to discuss.

Senior Olympics - Adobe 2017 Sunday was suggested because if it is on a Saturday, clubs would need to close their regular games and not make money. There is a possibility that this could be made into a unit game.

Cindy would like to be a full board member. Carolyn Reynolds would like to come back on the board. We might need a new I/N representative.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy O'Dell 8-16-2016

Unit 356 Minutes

September 11, 2016

The meeting of Unit 356 was called to order by Vice President Ken Grafton, 11:20 AM, Greater Tucson Bridge Club. Present were: Ken Grafton, Mindy Hawkins, Joan Merrill, Steve Reynolds, Ann Shaylor, Cindy Shoemaker and D17 Representative Darwin Afdahl.

The August minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Steve stated that \$2500 was spent on member appreciation games (four games over two years) and \$2500 was spent on new bridge mates for tournament usage. Steve provided clarification that the print costs of \$900 allocated to the NLM Regional include printing for three additional tournaments. Print costs for the NLM regional were approximately \$320.

District 17 update: Darwin stated that there is nothing new to report for the district unit and to contact him with questions.

Membership report: Tabled for November.

Tournaments: Steve said we are prepared for our next tournaments with set-up for the November sectional on Wednesday evening. Steve reminded the Board to help Sunday evening after play. A discussion of future venues has been tabled for October.

Flyers have been created and distributed for upcoming sectionals and ads have been scheduled for placement in the Scorecard. Flyers are available on the unit website.

Tucson Winter Regional: To increase attendance, Steve stated he is working with the Radisson to provide a free Sunday stay for attendees who book rooms Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Steve said he is working with the Radisson to provide two Sunday stays for those who book rooms for the entire tournament.

Joan pointed out that cards used at the Phoenix regional, Talking Stick, were dirty and stressed that we should provide clean cards for the Tucson Winter Regional.

Cindy stated we need to have a timeline and a plan for the Tucson Winter Regional.

Cindy and Mindy will work with Mary Primeau to create a design/logo for our Tucson Winter Regional that will be used for the patch and for the T-shirts awarded to "winners".

Cindy stated that we can use Fast Results to create a daily bulletin for the regional. Fast Results provides templates where board members can add copy and columns before the regional adding only results daily. This option requires a minimum donation to the ACBL Educational fund, reduces print costs and supports District objectives of looking for ways to go green.

Mindy stated that flyers for the Tucson Winter Regional and upcoming sectionals have been mailed for distribution. They have been added to the ACBL website, Facebook and to our unit website. An ad will be created and placed in the Scorecard.

Cactus Flower Non-Life Regional: Cindy reported that marketing has been completed for the regional. Along with Constant Contact emails to unit NLMs, she created a Roadmap to the regional that was sent out electronically by Fast Results to attendees for the last two years at no cost to the unit. The Roadmap was also placed on the unit website. The ACBL also sent out an e-mail blast. An article, photo and an ad for the regional ran in the Scorecard.

Club Manager: Joan had nothing new to report.

Hospitality: Joan made a request for help with clean-up after unit games.

Education: Ann Shaylor stated that the speakers are set for November. She is working on obtaining speakers for the January sectional. Adair will secure speakers for the Tucson Winter Regional. Speakers are set for the NLM regional. Flyers have been distributed. Cindy suggested we consider cost-effectively videoing speaker presentations and providing access to the videos via our website as an educational opportunity to our unit members.

Publicity: See information under event headings.

I/N representative: Publicity for the pro-am is in full force with Constant Contact blasts being made to past attendees, to unit NLM members, instructors and directors. Flyers have been distributed to clubs and are available on our unit website. To date, we have 10 teams.

Caddy status: Tabled for October.

New business:

Print costs: Carolyn raised whether we should reduce our print costs by lowering the quantity of Unit event flyers distributed at outside sectionals/regionals focusing on electronic sources. Joan stated that she and Adair use the ability to pick up flyers at events as their primary source of information and that Joan would like this option to continue. Cindy stated that Barry asked for a cost comparison of printing in the area using set criteria to reduce our costs. This comparison was made and it has resulted in cost reductions. Mailing costs will be reviewed.

Cindy asked for board feedback on giving outside vendors the opportunity to sell product/services at unit events. She asked for board feedback on selling of raffle tickets at the NLM Regional. The board made a motion without a second not to participate in these ventures.

Discussion of upcoming board elections: Cindy will seek a full board position. Ken is resigning as vice president of the unit board to hold a leadership position on the bridge board in Green Valley. Ken will speak to Barry about his current board position and the potential conflict of being on the unit board and the Adobe Bridge Club board at the same time. Carolyn will also seek a board position.

The Tucson Senior Olympics Bridge Game will be held Sunday, January 29, 2017 at the Adobe Bridge Club and is now on the calendar as an official unit event.

A motion for adjournment was made by Mindy. All approved.

Next meeting will be October 2, 2016, 11 AM at the Adobe Bridge Club.

November 13, 2016 Unit 356 Meeting

11:12 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Present were Joan Merrill, Anne Hinge, Darwin Afdahl, Ann Shaylor, Jud Jones, Carolyn Reynolds, Steve Reynolds, Barry Abrahams, Ken Grafton, and Betsy O'Dell.

The minutes from September were approved.
The treasurer report was approved.

Regional News - Food for the regional was discussed. Breakfast will be free to players. There will be salmon and pastries. The hotel will sell coffee. There is a \$7000.00 offset by not giving coffee away. Steve will be in charge of the unit's lunch choice. There will be salad, a sandwich, a cookie and a drink. The cost will be \$9.00 to \$10.00 dollars for the complete lunch and \$7.00 for the salad. We need 1300 tables to break even and over 1600 tables to make money. We need to have more locals and NLM come to the tournaments. Nine directors are scheduled to come but that can be reduced if estimated number of people based on hotel reservations is low. As of this meeting, we are not on the ACBL site for the regional in Feb./March. Selling of tee shirts were discussed with no conclusion. It was suggested that we could buy tee shirts with no date on them so that they could be used at future tournaments if not sold out. If the tournament does not make money, we need to look for ways to cut spending. Deals with the Radisson Hotel should be posted on our website.

Education News - Speakers are set for January. Adair is getting the speakers for the regional. We need to partner with Pima College to support non credited bridge courses to get new people.

Caddies - November tournament is set. Caddies will be paid about \$10.00 an hour with a \$40.00 maximum a day.

The annual meeting notes were read and approved.

So far every unit game is at Adobe. Catalina and Green Valley need to be offered at least one unit game. A NLM director needs to be supplied if there is a unit game in Catalina. Ken and Joan will contact clubs about possible unit game dates. Also, if Bill's club is up and running, he needs to get at least one unit game.

New Business - We will be collecting cans for the food bank for a charitable event in December. Also, flyers are needed for the Dec. 11 Member Appreciation Game. The disciplinary committee consists of Ann, Steve and Les. Ken is the possible recorder.

The next meeting is a lunch meeting on December 11 at the unit game.
The meeting was adjourned at 12:10.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy O'Dell on December 6, 2016

December 11, 2016 Unit 356 Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 12:10.

Present were Joan Merrill, Anne Hinge, Darwin Afdahl, Jud Jones, Carolyn Reynolds, Steve Reynolds, Barry Abrahams, Ken Grafton, Mindy Hawkins, Cindy Shoemaker, Betsy O'Dell, Adair Karlin and Heidi Beards

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

The treasurer report was approved with no questions.

Heidi Beards, the candidate for NLM representative, was accepted by acclamation.

Tournaments

Joan and Heidi will introduce the speakers at the sectional. The speakers include local Adobe players - Aaron, Dave and Jared.

Caddies are set for both the sectional and regional.

We have need 9 regional speakers. Each day Tuesday through Friday there will be 2 speakers per day. On Saturday there will be one speaker. We have 8 professional players and Ken Grafton scheduled to speak.

There will not be a dinner with a pro at the regional.

Carolyn and Cindy are working on Fast Results.

The design for the patch for the regional is done. Cindy will double check to see if it will be cheaper if we order 1000. T-shirts will cost about \$5. The preference is to be made by local businesses.

Jud has concerns about the Regional Tournament schedule. Events for the regional are determined by Becky and the district. We will have 3 national directors.

The NLM Tournament in September 2017 will have cup holders and gift baskets.

The Senior Olympics will be at Adobe on January 29. Registration is done through the city. Cindy will supply details in January. There is some concern about room for everyone. Jared Boulds and Bob Griffin were named as possible directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy O'Dell on December 19, 2016