

Annual Meeting Minutes - ACBL Unit 380

Date: December 14, 2019

Place: Belton Bridge Center

Alison Mann delivered the following President's Report:

"This has been a busy year for your Board and for all of you who have helped so generously in keeping the Belton Bridge Center going and growing. I'd like the current Board members to stand: John Randall, VP, Julie Reiser, Secretary, Peg Kenny Treasurer, Norman Duttweiler, Parliamentarian, and Molly Evetts and Linda Randall, At Large. A special thank you to Norman who coordinated today's luncheon, to all the volunteers who set it up and to Stephanie Morgan for buying the red tablecloths for the serving tables.

Our excellent treasurer Peg Kenny will give a brief Treasurer's report.

We began the year with a new directory with thanks to Marilyn Thomas for heading that effort, and she will be bringing us another updated version in January 2020.

In an effort to bring new players to Belton, John and Linda Randall have been paying out of pocket for ads in the Bulletin, and they have continued to teach a beginners group many of whom responded to the ad. We've also been lucky to have Cliff and Roy teach a weekly intermediate group. These teachers and the new learning they instill keep our membership growing and we are very grateful to them.

Testing that knowledge is part of tournament play, and we sponsored two tournaments: our Intermediate/Novice tournament in March chaired by Julie Reiser and Molly Evetts and our sectional co-chaired by Evelyn Colson. Both of these tournaments were the most financially successful for the club in its history, and we thank the chair people and their many helpers including Gloria, Billie, Pat Calhoon, Sharyn Shropshire, Barbara Houseknecht, Norman and others. We will be doing two more tournaments in March and April of 2020 and your help and participation will be needed.

With your response to our "Care and Share, Buy a Chair" campaign, we purchased 84 new chairs for the Club, and recognizing that all bodies are not the same, we kept a few of the old ones in good condition, and gave the rest to a local charity. We continued our theme of Go Blue when Jean Wiborg, Janice Favours and Sharyn Shropshire sewed new table covers. We are grateful to them for the fresh elegance their efforts achieved. Their work stimulated an organization of the kitchen and bookshelves by Linda Randall and Stephanie Morgan including replacement of some serving pieces which we used today. Our building angel, Dave Gose, rescued a damsel in distress and put a new door on the bathroom by the refrigerator, added storage in the men's bathroom, made and put up an announcement board, and got the heating and cooling under control. Molly put together a design and had printed some business cards to be handed out to people interested in playing here...if anyone wants to take some to distribute, we'd love it, and Molly has them and they are at the front desk.

With the inside looking good, we directed our attention to the outside where we had new stucco and paint put on. This was just in time to celebrate our 20th anniversary with a party honoring Belton's founders, with a brief history scripted by Norman, great publicity by John Randall in the Bulletin, and fabulous food and a great game by all. The photos at the front of the room attest to the smiling crowd and they were taken by our Webmaster and photographer extraordinaire, Bob Kimball, who along with

Larry Gioannini keep us informed of all events, including a semi goodbye to a longtime cherished member Louise Van Doren. We like to party and every month Norman buys a birthday cake for those who have a birthday that month...it does make growing older a little less painful!

Our building is also home to dance groups who use the building at times when we bridge players do not. This year, due to Norman's excellent liaison skills, contracts that expired years ago, are now updated including a slight increase in rental fees, and we now have added one more dance group so we have three dance groups renting.

Our bridge club is part of District 17, and knowing full well that we have the best of the best, we nominated John Randall to receive the District 17 Goodwill Ambassador award...and among all the District nominees, John received the award. John also coaches our members in training to be Directors, and this year Ellen Schneider became a director and has started directing some Saturday games. Congratulations, and thanks, Ellen! We also applied for a District 17 philanthropy grant, and we received it, so the district sent \$5000. to the Community of Hope, our chosen philanthropy. And of course, this year's Casa de Peregrinos drive was very successful because you gave \$2764. to help those in need of food.

To our usual Directors, Dave Allen, Linda Spengler, Barbara Houseknecht, and John and Linda Randall and to our sometimes Directors Julie Reiser, Marty Poel, Rob Van Eckeren, and Ellen Schneider we thank you because if you didn't run the games, we wouldn't be here.

One of the nicest duties I have as President is announcing the person chosen by the Board to be volunteer of the year. With so many people contributing so much, this is not an easy task. The volunteer of the year receives 6 months of free play at Unit games. This year, the Board unanimously selected Cliff Denton as our volunteer of the year. Has there ever been a request made to Cliff that goes unanswered? Never! He teaches weekly, washes dishes, takes out the garbage, plays bridge with novices, sweeps our floors, makes coffee, helps unceasingly at every tournament, greets people with a smile and introduces himself to any new person who comes to our center. "How can I help?" is his mantra, and if you tell him how much we appreciate him, he'll always downplay his efforts saying, "There are a lot of people who do more than I do." We think he's very deserving of this award and I know you do too.

The last business to be done are the nominations for 2020 Board positions. This year Linda and John Randall and Norman Duttweiler are leaving the Board. They have done an outstanding job and we thank them. George McCoy has chaired the nominating committee which was composed of George, June Sanchez and Linda Randall. The nominations from the committee are: Pat Calhoon, Stephanie Morgan and Jean Wiborg. Are there any nominations from the floor? If not, all in favor of these nominees, please say Aye."

At the Conclusion of the President's report: There were no further nominations from the floor and the Board members were voted in by acclamation, and bridge play commenced.

Board Meeting after the conclusion of a session of bridge play, the new 2020 Board of Directors met briefly to elect officers.

2020 Board Members Present: Alison Mann, Julie Reiser, Molly Evetts, Peg Kenny, Pat Calhoon, Stephanie Morgan, and Jean Wiborg.

The following officers were elected:

President: Julie Reiser

Vice President: Molly Evetts

Treasurer: Peg Kenney

Secretary: Pat Calhoon

After a general discussion about Board responsibilities, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Next Board Meeting: January 14, 2020 at 4:00 pm. All club members are welcome.

Submitted by Julie Reiser, Secretary