

**Minutes:**  
**from Board Meeting September 9, 2023**

Approved at Board Meeting on November 4, 2023

**ATTENDING:** Dixie Culver, Rich Peffer, Ted Edgar, Robert Powell, Claudia Hale, David Hamby, Chris Shepard, Cam Matthews, Judy Hellen, Rick Morgan, Barbara Pomer, Andy Symmes, Brenda Garzia

**NOT ATTENDING:** Melissa Waldron, Martha Meyer, Dianne Pusch, Debbie Elston

Rich called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES**

Minutes of July 15, 2023 Board Meeting were available on Dropbox and email/printed. Changes? Motion made to approve by Andy, seconded by Brenda. Approved by the Board by voice vote.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (Dixie)- August 2023**

New Members: 5 (3 in Greensboro, 2 in Winston-Salem)

Transfers in: 4 Out: 1

Reinstated: 6

Deceased: 1

Total: 736 – Claudia thought total is 741; **Action:** Claudia will double check and advise Rich/Dixie.

**NEW PROPOSAL: GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

See details in separate file, Appendix 1 (sent along with Agenda): “Growth & Development Grants – Guidance from Unit 169 for Application and Funding”.

**Proposal (Rich, Robert):** have the Board advertise and give small Growth & Development Grants to people, (e.g. \$200-400), who have plans for fostering a growth activity in the local bridge clubs.

**Background on this:** Peter J. Boyd-Bowman and Triad Bridge Club (T.B.C.) has reserved space at Fellowship Presbyterian Church in GSO, on 1) each Tuesday all day; 2) each Friday all day; 3) one Saturday per month. He has established windows of available time that could be sub-let by other groups (e.g. the Unit?), to have lessons, social bridge, Unit games, any other activity.... Rich discussed costs, further details of this as they exist now.

A goal of the proposed Unit Growth & Development Grants (\$200 – 400) is to help to new programs get started at ANY city in our Unit, including at this venue or others.

For the use of Fellowship Church, Peter is now paying \$900 per month. He proposed costs to Unit or another group for sub-let of space (paid to Peter / T.B.C.) would be:

- \$100 for use on a Saturday afternoon for a Unit Game
- \$60 (or 30), for use of Fellowship Hall on Tues. or Fri.
- \$15 (or 30?) for use of Library/ Meeting Room with 4 tables, for lessons or supervised play or social bridge etc.

**Board discussion:** Extensive questions, concerns, ideas and things to investigate further were raised in a healthy discussion. A few things to clarify were:

- Does the church agree that use on a Tues. or Fri. evening is also included, and space is “reserved”? Judy thought the church might consider Peter’s time reserved to end at 5:00 pm. **Action: Judy** to clarify this.
- Could the Unit reserve the Saturday time slots needed, directly from the church? This may then lower Peter’s monthly costs as well. **Action: Rich** to investigate.

Judy has been using the church’s Library to have lessons for a good while, and thus also has a relationship with the church. Current lessons she is doing are on Wednesday mornings.

There were views shared that having the Fellowship Church is a great opportunity to have one “bridge central” location where multiple different bridge activities are known to occur throughout the weeks (duplicate games, social games, lessons, supervised play, maybe a night game?) Some Board members expressed concern about the Unit subsidizing just one club out of the many that are in the Unit. Some felt it worth approaching this relationship for a limited time period (e.g. 3 months), and see how it works out. Some thought the idea of the Unit advertising and issuing small “grants” to people interested in starting a growth opportunity like these in any part of the Unit was perhaps a good way to go. Others offered that maybe use whatever way is easiest, to get something established.

The cost for a Saturday (\$100) was a good bit higher than what we typically pay at Lewis Center (around \$40). It is lower than the \$150 or so we pay in WS, but we have proposals to modify our Unit Game approach in 2024 that will get away from this more costly monthly fee setup (see later agenda item).

After much good discussion, the Board considered the following motion:

**Motion:** that the Unit institute and advertise (website, pianola emails) the availability of Growth & Development Grants (\$200 – 400). Any person/group within the Unit can apply via the application process. The reviewing group will be chaired by Robert Powell, V.P. of Membership, and all applications will be evaluated and approved/rejected/deferred by a 5-member committee. Such grants COULD include requests by people interested in starting up a growth activity (e.g. lessons, supervised play, mentoring activities, social bridge, etc.) at places such as the Fellowship Church in GSO, for example.

This motion was made by Rich, and seconded by Ted. After brief discussion, the Board approved the motion by a show of hands, with no votes of “no”.

**Action: Robert Powell** enlisted the following people who volunteered to be part of this **Growth & Development Committee:**

- Robert Powell (chair, V.P. of Membership)
- Dixie Culver
- Judy Hellen
- Andy Symmes
- David Hamby

Rich Peffer (President) will be invited to meetings and included on new grant’s received, but will not be a regular member of the Committee (no voting rights). Robert indicated he likely can handle most distribution of new grant applications and review/approval process electronically, without need for face to face meetings.

**Announcement: Robert / Rich / Claudia:** to finalize the application (Appendix 1). Then announce this program via website and pianola emails to the Unit, very soon. **Rich and Judy:** to discuss further with Peter, so he is aware of this new program and the Board’s discussions.

**Other separate item:** the Board agreed to defer consideration of **Unit Games** on Saturdays, and the higher cost of the Fellowship Church (\$100) until more information can be gained about this, and our other options. See later agenda item. We have agreed to use the Fellowship Church in GSO one time in 2023 on December 9, because we did not have another available venue, and pay the \$100 for that one time.

## **TOURNAMENTS, 2023 (Ted)**

**-WS Sectional – August 11-13, 2023.** WS Fairgrounds

- Tournament chair: Cam Matthews. Cindy agreed to mentor her in this role.
- Partnership chair: Susan Wesley.

**Post-tournament review:** Outputs from a Zoom meeting of the Board Members about 1 week after this tournament is attached via a separate file – **Appendix 2.**

On behalf of the Board, Dixie expressed our gratitude to Cam for taking on the role of chair for the WS tournament, and for diligently making a visit to each club game in the Unit to personally invite folks to come support our tournament. It made a difference, our attendance was good, and the Unit made a profit for the tournament overall. Bravo!

**-Piedmont Triad Fall Sectional – October 20-22, 2023** Bur-Mil Clubhouse, Greensboro

- Tournament Chair: Rich
- Partnership chair: Martha M.
- Bur-Mill clubhouse reserved; contract signed
- Comfort Inn – have contract with them (\$139 per night. More than earlier tournaments, because of Furniture Market)
- Sanction obtained 2310340.
- Diane Graham will be helping in the kitchen. Brenda as Food Coordinator is preparing / soliciting additional items for snacks during the day.

**Food:** Brenda, Dixie and Melissa to update Rich on plans for a number of food-related items as they are finalized, below, or if more support is needed somewhere.

**Snacks:** Brenda (Food Coordinator) – is providing hot breakfast-like items each day.

**Friday lunch:** Hotdogs or Pizza – charge \$5

**Friday evening** – Wine & Cheese event: bartender is booked via Bur-Mil. **Other needs:** Dixie to coordinate what charcuterie, snacks, other items to buy. Several people (Ted, Dixie... ) said they'd donate some bottles of wine. As before this event is free for Players Club members and will cost \$5 for non-Members. Buy tickets at entrance to Living Room? (TBD).

**Saturday lunch:** Hot dogs or Pizza – charge \$5

**Sunday lunch:** To be determined. From a different source than Friday – Saturday. Included with price of Team entry. Total team entry: \$140, equivalent to \$35 per person.

**Sodas:** we agreed to use up our existing stored supply of 2-liter bottles, available for FREE to players. We will only buy as much as we need, based on usage after 1<sup>st</sup> day. Then for future tournaments, see if we instead go to small soda cans and charge \$1 each for them. Cam reported: people tended NOT to pay the \$1, and instead opted to just drink water. It appears if sodas are free, people drink them but it's a mess, they are heavy to transport, and likely not really needed/desired. People just want something wet and cold.

**Tables:** Need 50, from venues in GSO (Peter, Rich to transport). **Rich** – will make sure Peter can help with this.

**Dixie:** making final payment to Bur-Mil, for rent and use of a bartender

**Setup: Thurs., Oct. 19** starting around 1:00 pm. People to help set up tables, chairs, other items.

**People moving items** from closet at Lewis Center that day – T.B.D.

**Supplies being ordered:** drink cups, coffee, decaf coffee, small plates, other? Agreed: we will avoid Styrofoam for this. Sturdy paper products work well. We don't need lids for our coffee cups.

**Caddies:** Ava Grill and her friend Macie who did our 2 prior tournaments are lined up to help again (Rich has phone number).

**Change:** we may need a starting supply of change (smaller bills), when people pay for lunches with large bills.

**Revised flyers:** have been modified to reflect that Partnership Chair is now Martha Meyer. We have some old printouts still showing as Debbie Monroe.

**Action: on Website, Claudia** to add that the Wine & Cheese event will be on Friday evening, and cost of Sunday Team Game is \$140 per team and includes lunch.

## **2024 TOURNAMENTS (Ted, Rich)**

### **Greensboro Sectional REVISED DATES March 1 – 3, 2024.**

- Venue: Bur-Mil Clubhouse
- Chair: Ted Edgar
- Partnership Chair: Rich Pepper
- Sanction number: 2403339

- Hotel: Comfort Suites? We've received quotes; negotiating final price (Rich).

**Actions Needed:** we had to modify our dates, because venue (Bur-Mil) was not available by the time D7 finally granted our requested sanction. We DO NOT have a NLM Regional for this event in 2024 (to be discussed), but propose instead having a NLM Regional in conjunction with the Piedmont Triad Fall Sectional in Oct. 2024. **Brief discussion: Board agreed with these plans for 2024.**

**Need to get finalized** 1) Host hotel, and 2) Flyers – send to D7, ACBL. Start advertising, planning this.

**Gate City Sectional REVISED DATES June 13-15, 2024 (Thurs. – Sat.). Sunday is Father's Day.**

- Venue: Bur-Mil Clubhouse
- Chair:
- Partnership Chair:
- Sanction number: 2406330
- Hotel: Comfort Suites?

**Winston-Salem Sectional August 16-18, 2024.**

- ACBL sanction number: 2408326
- Chair: Cam Matthews
- Partnership Chair:
- Cam has asked WS Fairgrounds to reserve the building for these days. Her contact says he is working on it; maybe had been booked? **Action: Cam** – to follow up, and let Ted, Rich know about the venue.
- Hotel?

**Piedmont Triad Fall Sectional, and Piedmont Triad NLM Regional. October 10-13, 2024. (Thurs. – Sun.)**

Requested to extend dates and add NLM with ACBL

- BurMill is not available; alternative dates in Sept. – Oct. not possible now. We kept our current dates and sanctions, **and will find another venue. Possibly: River Landing Clubhouse. Action: Rich, Dixie** to meet with them and negotiate/evaluate if feasible.
- Chair: Rich Pepper
- Partnership Chair:
- Hotel: Comfort Suites?
- Sanction numbers: Sectional – 2410327; NLM Regional - 2410107

**2025 TOURNAMENTS (Ted, Rich)**

We have projected dates. Would like to request from D7 and ACBL as soon as possible, so we get the slots, venue we want. BurMil does not start taking reservations for 2025 until Jan. 1, 2024. **Action – Claudia**, request these for Bur-Mil on Jan. 1

### Other Tournament News:

- Rich received a “Tournament Chair’s Bible” from Claudia, of a succinct list of everything the chair needs to consider and act upon, as a starting guide. He’ll modify a bit based on our newer approaches and share with others.
- Rich asked: If a Board Member is interested in being a Tournament Chair for a future tournament, there are opportunities to do this, with a Mentor or Co-chair with a more experienced person if you wish. **Let Rich or Ted know if you are interested.**

### FINANCIAL UPDATE (Dixie) []

#### Profit & Loss 7/1/23 to 8/31/23

Income:		
Non-Programs	\$ 1,929	
Program Service	<u>12,000</u>	\$13,929
Expenses:		
Non-Programs	\$ 1,906	
Program Service	<u>8,475</u>	<u>10,382</u>
Net Profit		3,547

#### BALANCE SHEET August 2023

Current Assets:		
BB&T Checking	\$ 42,839	
Cash \$2 bills	18	
Towne Bank CD	<u>10,201</u>	<u>53,058</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		\$53,058
Equity:		
Opening	\$ 49,911	
Net Profit	<u>3,547</u>	<u>\$ 53,058</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		\$ 53,058

Dixie shared that the Unit made a good profit on the WS tournament, and balance has increased. She recommended we move our savings from the current low-interest bank account to a higher-interest money market account. Board agreed by general accord/commenting.

### UNIT GAME UPDATE (Rich)

- 2023 Schedule is complete, with 1 game in GSO and 1 game in WS each month.

- Special Games in rest of 2023:
  - Oct. 14: Team Game: Jane Johnson Teams (GSO), “Eight is Enough”
  - Nov. 4: Team Game: GNT Qualifying Game (GSO)
  - Dec. 9: New date and venue (GSO)
    - Lewis Center and GCUM Church unavailable.
    - New venue: Fellowship Presbyterian Church. Rent is \$100, which is more than we paid typically at Lewis Center (around \$40). Board agreed to do this one-time move, since no other venue available.
  - Dec. 16: STaC Game and Holiday Party (WS)

Board previously agreed: to hire a custodian (if needed) to help with cleanup after the Holiday Party (once per year). About 1 hr. of their time.

**Discussion and New Idea(s) – for 2024 Scheduling of Unit Games (Rich):**

- The number of attendees at the WS Unit Games have been dropping, in particular from WS area players. The WS venue costs more (\$150 plus \$1 per player) than the GSO venues (\$40 – 60). A possible new approach to Unit Games in 2024 is:
  - Have one per month in GSO. Venue? T.B.D.
  - Have one per month at different cities in our Unit that have active bridge clubs. Such as:
    - Jan: Salisbury
    - Feb: Burlington
    - Mar: Winston-Salem
    - Apr: Reidsville
    - May: Asheboro?
    - June: High Point?
    - Etc.

**Action: Claudia** – check website. Maybe Martinsville, VA and/or Danville, VA games not listed there? Confirm with Skip what games are occurring.

A key consideration: will players from these host cities commit to coming out on a Saturday to attend and support the Unit games there? Will players from our other, larger cities also commit to traveling some, to help our games?

Ideas to help refine this idea were welcomed.

Board discussed and a motion was made by Chris, seconded by Andy, that the Unit Games be moved to a schedule of one/month in GSO (venue T.B.D.) and one rotating among other cites per month. Board approved this change by show of hands.

**Action: Rich, Judy** – to discuss options for Fellowship Church with Peter, including that maybe the Unit could just contract directly with the church for one Saturday?

**Action: Rich** – start to coordinate the 2024 scheduling, and reserve venue/cities. Announce as soon as it's available now.

**Action: David:** check if we can rent a larger room at Senior Center in Burlington on a Saturday. What cost.

**Action: Rick M.:** see if venue in Asheboro and in High Point are available on a Saturday; what cost.

**Rich also shared:** at some time in 2024 or so, he'd like to start passing to other people the role of Unit Game Director, given his other competing interests in bridge, family, and travel. Would welcome a team approach to the directing, if a number of qualified Directors are available and interested. To be discussed in future.

### **MEMBERSHIP EFFORTS / TEACHING COORDINATOR ROLE (Judy)**

Judy updated the Board on progress in recruiting new teachers, and the next offering of beginner bridge lessons in GSO. A "Bridge Basics 1" course for beginners is ongoing, Sept. 6 – 28 (4 weeks). Teachers helping and learning how to present in this style:

- Cecelia Ray
- Brenda Garzia
- Barbara Pomer
- Andy Symmes
- Rich Pepper

Next course offering (teaching to be led by Cecelia): starting Oct. 24 – BB1 or BB2, on Tuesdays in GSO at Fellowship Church.

Club managers in Reidsville and in Burlington said they are interested in seeing if teacher(s) can start beginner courses in these cities as well. Plans to be formulated.

Judy also shared, that she's found that for some new students, we need to be somewhat patient before getting them into a duplicate game. Not all are ready for that level (and competition) after one course or two.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing additional.

**MEETING ADJORNMENT.** Dixie moved the meeting be adjourned; Ted seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

### **Attachments (see separate files):**

Appendix 1. Growth and Development Grants.doc

Appendix 2. Feedback & Discussion Following the WS Tournament.doc