

**MINUTES
NORTHERN INDIANA
UNIT 154 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Northwest Indiana
Saturday, October 5, 2024

The Northwest Indiana Unit 154 Board of Director's meeting was called to order by President Wayne Carpenter at 12:56 pm. at the Michigan City Senior Center, site of the 2024 Northwest Indiana Sectional/NLM Regional.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Wayne Carpenter, Vice-President Chuck Tomes, Secretary/Treasurer Ken Bisson, Tournament Coordinator Terry Bauer, Phil Eyermann, Dimi Cooklev, Robert Werner, and Mary Kocevar.

Absent: Alan Yngve, Marci Meyer

Wayne moved and Chuck seconded the seating of newly elected Board member Mary Kocevar. The motion carried. Wayne moved and Chuck seconded the seating of newly elected Board member Robert Werner. The motion carried. Dimi became a Board member at the end of October, 2023, replacing Stan Davis as a Fort Wayne representative.

It was pointed out that our current Board members are not all representing their geographic area of residence. Ken moved and Chuck seconded making Wayne Carpenter the representative of Portage/Chesterton/Valparaiso and making Mary Kocevar the Highland representative. The motion carried.

UNIT 154 NEW DIRECTORS

Dimi Cooklev, Robert Werner, and Mary Kocevar were welcomed to the Board of Directors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ken reported that the minutes of the October 7, 2023 BOD meeting, prepared by Marci Meyer, were examined by him with no adjustments suggested. He called for any corrections or additions. None being offered, the minutes were filed as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken referred to his report (attached to these minutes) which was sent by email to Board members prior to the meeting. At the end of the 23/24 fiscal year, the balance in the check register was \$33,152.85. The current balance of the checking account is \$31,807.56.

Ken proposed that \$24,000 of that balance be invested in 8-week Treasury Bills with \$3,000 used to purchase T-Bills each week for 8 weeks, then rolling them over until additional cash was required for operations. This should earn about \$1,000 each year for the Unit, depending on changing interest rates. No action was taken at this time. The remainder of the funds will reside in a checking account Ken opened at the First Federal Savings Bank of Angola.

DISTRICT 12 ACBL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dennis Carman, District 12 President, was unable to attend this year's BOD meeting.

DISTRICT 12 BOARD MEETING

The Unit 154 President represents the unit as a voting member at the District 12 Board of Director meetings. The Unit 154 Secretary is also invited to attend as a non-voting member. It was confirmed that, as established last year, \$150.00 be allocated for travel to the District 12 meeting each year.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Angola – Trine University Sectional

Ken Bisson and Chet Pinkham co-chaired this new Sectional. Ken reported that the table counts surpassed all recent Fort Wayne Sectionals and that he considered it a successful tournament for that reason. A net surplus of \$31.72 was achieved. In 2025, the later dates of the summer NABC will prevent holding a Trine Sectional because of the lack of time between the

NABC and the start of fall classes. Future tournaments at Trine will depend on the availability of space and the schedule of the student calendar.

Michigan City – NW Indiana Fall Sectional - Terry Bauer

Terry reported that the 2023 Northwest Indiana Sectional was successful and provided a surplus of \$1,530.21. The 2024 NW Indiana Sectional/NLM Regional is ongoing with higher combined table counts than last year with 25 tables per session so far. This tournament will continue to be held at the Michigan City Senior Center. Wayne suggested that the Board consider a donation of \$500 to the Senior Center's penny cash fund in recognition of their provision of the fine facility for this Sectional. Ken moved and Chuck seconded that \$500 per year be donated for each year that it hosts our events. The motion passed without objection.

Terry reported that Fort Wayne is scheduling a Sectional tournament for 2025 on 5/30, 5/31 & 6/1. Michael Clegg is working with Ken Bisson and Terry to make this happen. Terry has submitted a Sanction request.

TOURNAMENT FEES

Wayne proposed that the previously determined Sectional fee of \$12 remain in effect for the present time. There was a general expectation that with inflation, the Sectional Fee will be adjusted by the Board to keep our fee in line with other Sectionals. No action was taken.

WEB NEWSLETTER

Ken is working with outgoing Webmaster and Newsletter editor, Kim Grant to transition into these roles soon. Kim plans to do a final update of the Unit 154 Web site soon and remain available to help Ken manage updates. Ken agreed with a member's suggestion that our BOD minutes be posted on the web site and he will do so moving forward. Ken plans to send a newsletter approximately 60 days prior to each Unit 154 Tournament. This will serve as announcement to all Unit members of any associated meetings to be held in conjunction with a tournament.

UNIT BY-LAWS

Ken reported that he and Kim Grant have completed a first draft of proposed changes in the Bylaws and Standing Rules. This draft was created and distributed to Board members recently but was unable to be sent to all Unit members 30 days prior to tomorrow's Annual Meeting. Ken stated that no

corrections or suggestions had been received from other Board members and he encouraged their input so he could formulate a final draft to submit to the membership in 2025. Kim did respond to the first draft, stating that it did reflect their discussion. In addition, Kim requested that no change be made to the prohibition of the Treasurer also serving as a Tournament Chair.

The major change suggested was reducing our Board to one representative from each Sanctioned Club in Unit 154 – currently 10. Each Club could choose their representative as they see fit. This would replace the somewhat cumbersome method of electing Board members used since the Unit's reorganization a decade ago.

Chuck suggested that the revised Bylaws proposal be changed to allow each Unit President to choose their Vice-President. That seemed generally agreeable to Board members present.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Unit President. Wayne nominated Terry Bauer for Unit President, complementing Terry for his good work in that role previously. It was seconded by Chuck. There were no further nominations and Terry was elected by acclamation.

b. Club Appreciation. Wayne submitted an example of a frame-able certificate, prepared by his wife, to accompany Unit 154 Mini McKenney medal presentations.

Wayne stated that he would like the Unit Board to send a \$300 gift certificate from Baron-Barclay to each Sanctioned Club in the Unit. This would allow each Club to offset some of their costs of equipment and supplies. Ken moved and Terry seconded that the Board purchase a \$300 gift Certificate for each of the currently listed 10 ACBL Sanctioned Clubs in Unit 154 and that each new Club that is Sanctioned in Unit 154 be sent the same after their first 3 months of successful operation. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion of the tremendous work and support provided by family members of our Board members ensued. It was agreed that these Board Meeting minutes should reflect our appreciation of that support by naming

Wayne's wife, Janet Carpenter, Terry's wife Stephanie Bauer, daughter Tracy Bauer, granddaughter Amber Laughner, and Ken's wife, Ellen Bisson.

CONCERNS

Robert shared that the South Bend Club obtained 501(c)3 status and that subsequent recent donations exceeded \$5,000, effectively saving their Club. (While Unit 154 is an Indiana nonprofit Corporation with 501(c) status, donors to Unit 154 cannot list such contributions as itemized deductions.) Robert suggested that other Clubs may benefit from pursuing the charitable status of 501(c)3.

Terry suggested that the next Unit 154 Annual Meeting be held in conjunction with the Fort Wayne Sectional and that changes to Unit 154 Bylaws be considered at that time. Ken agreed that the final draft of the proposed changes would be included in the Unit Newsletter sent prior to that Meeting, serving the required notice to membership.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Tomes and seconded by Terry Bauer. Motion carried. The Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Bisson
Secretary/Treasurer