Unit 431
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2026

PRESENT: Ernie Tradewell, Ruth Davies, Maureen Trappe, Catherine Mustafa, Jill Stainforth, Peter Leitz, Janice Closson

Regrets: Bill Wastle, JP Weber, Gina Curran

Call to Order: 1:34 pm

1) **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Ruth and seconded by Peter. All approved.

2) **Approval of previous minutes:**
   a) July 17, 2026 – Moved by Peter and seconded by Ruth. All approved.

3) **Matters arising from previous minutes**:
   a) Hall of Fame event on Saturday evening, September 26 following the Sectional. Catherine will be the MC. She will introduce Ernie to deliver general remarks about the importance of honoring our Hall of Fame inductees. Daniel Lyder will then honor Michael Roche and Michael Hargreaves will speak about Sandra and Doug Fraser. Non-alcoholic Prosecco will be distributed to all audience members to toast the honorees. Chocolate dipped chocolates will follow. Staging will include theatre-style seating and a podium with microphone near chairs for the Honorees. Janice will bring the gifts and photographers will be Christie Ulner and Marlene Howell. Catherine will arrange lighting.
   b) Launch of new logo. This has been mentioned in the new directory poster. Ernie will print large format versions to have on display at the Sectional and board members will sport T-shirts at the Sectional featuring the new logo on the front and back.

4) Reports:

a) **President**:

Ernie is back on the Unit president's list. He described ACBL's Sapphire program that tracks activities of all guest members and mentioned Bridge Wars, another ACBL venture. Ernie would like some data for the Unit president's meeting next Tuesday about membership and specifically DL players who have converted to ACBL members. Action: Jill

b) **Treasurer**:

Current balances: Chequing Account, $12,251.35; etransfer Account, $207.82; Petty cash, $549.55. Jill asked what the cap is for expenditures without having the expense approved by the board and it is $200. Some operating expenses are handled differently.

c) **Membership**:

Jill showed copies of the two reports the ACBL sends us monthly: the Unit 431 Membership snapshot which includes the IN/Out Report and the Sapphire Program that tracks bridge activities of guest members. She reviewed the DL team game held on September 1 and it was agreed that Rith would supply Nicole with team-game paperwork from the Unit's supply. In future, Nicole will pay Mike Roberts for directing the team game.

d) **Tournaments**:

Ruth has lined up Karen Turner to be the speaker during the break on Saturday of the Sectional. Mike Roberts will be DIC. Ernie will assist on Friday and Mike Ainsley on Saturday. Ernie is preparing all the boards and the hand records will feature our new logo. Ruth reported that the loudest response from the survey about the Ace Tournaments was the difficulty people have finding partners. It was agreed that the Board should take on the partnership issue more thoroughly and on several fronts. Besides having partnership brokers we could look at a dating-app sort of solution

online. It would be good to have a group of people willing to play at a moment's notice as well as permanent spares at games in the event of a solo player.

e) **Inventory**:
Peter will be at the Mary Winspear Centre at the start of the Sectional (8:30 am September 25) to help Ernie unload his car..

f) **Webmaster**:
No report.

g) **Tournament Hand Sorter:**
Ernie announced that all the boxes carrying sets of boards are now lined and well protected. He will take a picture of the internal setup within each box and leave the picture in it for people to use when putting the boards back in. Each box is also labeled with day and time of intended use. Mike Roberts asked for 6 sets of 8 boards for the Swiss team event on Sunday.

h) **Awards:**
Janice presented a spread sheet showing all the tournaments throughout the year at which players win prizes, including the names of the trophy that used to be awarded at each event. She made a case for not issuing the same prizes for mentor game winners as for larger tournaments. There was agreement that four prizes would be awarded after Mentor games, one each to the winning N, S, E, and W players. A discussion addressed the variety of skill levels among the mentees and the resulting lack of interest among mentors. The board voted to reduce the maximum MP level of mentees to less than 300. Emphasis in the mentor games should be on the pay-back and nurturing aspects of the game, not the competition. Ernie suggested offering fewer boards at the November 6th mentor game

and a teaching session afterwards on a few of the more interesting hands. We considered what prize to award new Life Masters instead of the coin of yore. More study is needed.

i) **Communications:**
Catherine wanted to discuss the amount of effort she should put into Nicole's Alzheimer's event next year. It has been agreed that permission has to be asked of any other Unit before our material is sent to its members. It was suggested that ahead of the event, Nicole should make a detailed request for Communications assistance and the Board can decide how much of it to approve. It was suggested that when committees get set up, there should be3 WhatsApp groups created so all parties can confer easily. Peter sought clarification that the Board votes in decisions and committees find consensus.

j) **Education:**
Bill was not present but there4 was discussion about the monthly etiquette message. We agreed that the next one could be: "No body language or facial expressions during bidding or play".

5) New and other Business:

a. We agreed to make it possible for Janete Van Der Veen, who has taken over the mentor game organization, to access the Unit's DropBox.
b. It was agreed that the board's number will remain ten and no new position will be created for the person running the mentor game.
c. Mentor incentives—postponed to the next meeting.
d. Incentives for the DL game now tha the ACBL grant money is running out. We agreed that none is needed as DL has plenty of momentum.

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6) Next meeting:

4247 Eastridge, October 7, 2026 at 1:00.

Adjournment: 4:10 pm

Notes taken by Jill Stainforth, Membership

Approved by Ernie Tradewell, President