



ABA Southern Section

MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2017
Holiday Inn & Suites Atlanta Airport North
1380 Virginia Avenue,
Atlanta, GA 30344

Meeting date | time 1/15/2017 11:00 AM | Meeting location Holiday Inn Airport North,

Meeting called by	Birnell Hatcher, Outgoing Sectional Vice-President (SVP)
Type of meeting	Sectional Membership Meeting
Note taker	Gwendolyn White, Section Secretary

PROCEEDINGS

Call To Order | Sectional Vice President | Birnell Hatcher

The Southern Section meeting of the American Bridge Association convened on January 15, 2017. The *outgoing* Sectional Vice President (SVP), Birnell Hatcher, called the meeting to order at 11 am. Agendas and a few copies of the Southern Exposure were distributed. After which, the following agenda topics ensued.

AGENDA TOPICS

Approval of Agenda | *Changes, Addition and Deletions* | Birnell Hatcher, SVP

The Sectional Vice-President (SVP) announced a change in the order of the Agenda and the addition of another agenda item. Presentation of the "Certificates of Congratulations for Level Change" was moved to follow the prayer. A report from the *Southern Section Constitution and By-laws* Committee chaired by Dr. Gwen Middlebrooks was added to the agenda.

Ms. Johnnie Saunders presented a **MOTION THAT** the agenda be approved. The MOTION was **SECONDED** and **CARRIED** without dissent.

Prayer | Richard Banks, Tampa Bay, FL

Deacon Richard E. Banks of the Tampa Bay Bridge Club offered prayer.

The Outgoing Sectional Vice-President recognized *awards recipients* who changed from one level to a new level during the 2016 year. After the meeting, these recipients received “Certificates of Congratulations” from the Section. Approximately seventy certificates were awarded to individuals who reached a new milestone as follows: *Master (20), Life Master (18), Senior Life Master (8), Ruby (8), Diamond (5), Silver Diamond (2), Gold Diamond (1)*.

The *Southern Section* presented three of these awards as *special recognition awards* to individuals who in 2016 reached one of the two “*highest achievement levels*” in the American Bridge Association (ABA).

- (1) Anderson Williams moved from Black Diamond to *Grand Life Master*, achieving the highest “*level change*” possible in the ABA with 20,000+ master points.
- (2) Evelyn Adkins moved from Platinum Diamond level to Black *Diamond* with 15000+ master points.
- (3) Benny Patton moved from Platinum Diamond to Black Diamond with 18000+ master points.

Eric Shelton was commended for his achievement in successfully attaining the Gold Diamond with 5000+ master points in just 6 years.

“Certificates of Congratulations” were distributed to those members in attendance at the Sectional. Certificates will be disbursed to club presidents for distribution to those persons not in attendance.

Johnnie Saunders, Southern Section Election’s Committee chair, presented the 2017 Election results as follows:

POSITION	NAME	WON BY
Section Vice-President	Evelyn Adkins	(+61 VOTES)
Section Secretary	Gwendolyn White	(+2 VOTES)
Section Treasurer	Dwight Bush	(+41 VOTES)

Willetta Phipps, ABA National Secretary, conducted the Installation Ceremony for the Southern Section’s 2017 – 2018 officers. She began by acknowledging the retiring officers and commending them for the manner in which they each fulfilled the duties and obligations of their office-for the past two years.

The Oath of Office: Willetta asked the newly elected 2017 -2018 officers to stand. First, she administered the oath of office to each new officer, and then administered a pledge of support to the membership before declaring the “Newly Elected Officers” duly installed officers of the ABA, ***Southern Section January 15, 2017 through December 31, 2018:***

1 Section Vice-President - Evelyn Adkins

2. Section Secretary - Gwendolyn White

3. Section Treasurer - Dwight Bush

The 2017 – 2018 ABA, Southern Section Officers immediately assumed their duties. Section Vice President, Ms. Evelyn Adkins took the chair and continued the agenda with reports from officers and standing committee chairs for the remainder of the meeting.

Secretary's Report | Gwendolyn White

The members read the minutes of the September 24, 2016 Sectional Meeting silently. After which, Winton King MOVED that the minutes be approved as read. The motion was properly SECONDED. The motion carried. **RESULT:** All approved.

Financial Report | Dwight Bush, Treasurer

The Section Treasurer, Dwight Bush presented the *Income and Expense* Report from the Southern Section Fall Tournament - *September 22 thru 25, 2016 (copies distributed)*. He indicated that the Net Profit line should be corrected to read \$602.30 instead of \$602.20. He also presented a detailed Financial Report for the Period January 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2016. In this presentation, he noted that the Section had ended the year with a Cash Balance on Hand of \$16,653.35. A summary report of the Section Financial Reports are presented below and the detail reports are on file with the Treasurer.

**Income and Expense Report
Southern Section Fall Tournament
September 22 thru 25, 2016**

Income	\$8,466.00
Expenses	<u>7,863.70</u>
Net Profit	<u>\$ 602.30</u>

**Southern Section – Annual Financial Report
January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016**

Beginning Balance – January 1, 2016	\$ 8,994.03
Total Receipts	<u>34,460.52</u>
Total Beginning Balance and Receipts	\$43,454.55
Less: Total Expenses	<u>(\$26,801.20)</u>
Ending Cash Balance – December 31, 2016	<u>\$16,653.35</u>

Nancy Montgomery MOVED that the Treasurer’s report be accepted as information and the MOTION was properly SECONDED and carried without dissent. All Approved.

Committee Reports

Life Membership and Merit Committee | Presenter | Leatrice Bell, Chair

Ms. Leatrice Bell, Chair of the Life Membership and Merit Committee reported that after eight years of chairing this Committee she is stepping down. She reported this to be her final report as Chair of the Committee.

Ms. Bell explained that the Southern Section had no nominee for the Life Membership Award, but that there were two nominees for the Merit Award. The Merit Award is given to an individual for service rendered during the past year; the individual may or may not be an ABA member, and must have received no compensation for any services rendered. This year the Southern Section's recipient is Ms. Jacqueline McLoyd of the South Metro Bridge Club in Atlanta, GA. Ms. Bell was not required to read the letter of recommendation; however, she stated that Ms. McLoyd had recruited and mentored 20 new members during the past year. And so, the Committee felt that this accomplishment should be rewarded for *as Meritorious* Service to the Section. Ms. Bell congratulated Jacki. She also thanked her committee members for their service (3 committee members in GA, 4 in Tennessee, 2 in Florida, and 1 in Alabama).

- Scholarship

Presenter | Scholarship Committee Chair | Ms. Olivia Green

Ms. Olivia Green, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, explained that the Southern Section had three recipients of the \$1000 Scholarship Award in September 2016 and they were JerNiyah Beckly, Robyn Golden and Lauren Frederick.

JerNiyah Beckly, granddaughter of Mrs. Johnnie Walker Lee and a “*Second Renewal*” is from Decatur, Georgia. She is a graduating senior at the University of Georgia.

Robyn Golden of Lithonia, Georgia is attending Georgia State University. She is a “*First Renewal*” and is eligible to receive a Scholarship again provided she meets the requirements. Robyn is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Worth Christler.

And, Lauren Frederick of Antioch, Tennessee attends Middle Tennessee State University and is a *First Renewal*.

According to the Chair, the Committee has one slot open for the academic year of 2017-2018. Applications may be downloaded from the ABA Website. The deadline for submission is July 15, 2017 and one requirement is a 2.5 GPA. Interested persons may send names to the chair.

In other business, the chair reported that after more than 10 years, she intends to *lay down the gauntlet* this year and announced that this year would be her last term as chair.

- Staff Development

Presenter | Shirley Williams | Staff Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Shirley Williams, Southern Section Staff Development, Chair, reported that the Committee has been working with clubs/units throughout the Section to ensure that *The Section* has an adequate number of well-trained certified directors in each club and/or unit. She gave a reported of the 2016 training workshops and instructional activities that have been conducted for persons interested in becoming certified directors.

According to her report, there are nine aspiring Directors currently enrolled in the "Directors In Training" Staff Development Program. Each of these DITs has a level II or higher certified director as a mentor. The nine (9) individuals are: Joyce Toney of Alabama; Margie Inman and Francis Scales of Tennessee; Sharette H. Simpkins of Jacksonville, FL and Barbara Jackson, Winton King, Evelyn Lewis, Tarsellia Oliver and Bernadette Porche of the Metropolitan Atlanta Bridge Unit (MABU).

On December 28, 2016, the Staff Development Chair conducted the annual Bridgemate II Upgrade and Training Workshop in Atlanta. Five (5) level II and higher directors participated in the workshop – Edith Knowlton, Evelyn Cook, Gloria Simmons, Worth Christler and Gwendolyn Middlebrooks. Bridgemate II upgrades and the latest version of ACBLscore (if needed) were installed on the workshop participants computers. Bridgemate upgrades were also installed on the computers of Gloria Christler, Andrew Echols, and Anderson Williams as well as the laptops of the five MABU directors-in-training.

- Constitution And By-Laws

Presenter | Dr. Gwendolyn Middlebrooks | Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chair

Dr. Gwendolyn Middlebrooks, Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, presented a **MOTION** to members of the Southern Section that the revised Bylaws of the Southern Section be approved (accepted). There

was a second to the motion and when the vote was called for there was UNreadiness.

UNREADINESS: Members asked The Chair to summarize the proposed changes to the Bylaws (to refresh their memories) before voting.

She reminded the members that they had voted to discontinue using a "Constitution" for the Southern Section and instead use the ABA Constitution (since the two constitution documents were the same). She apologized for the errors in the numerical outline and word omissions in the proposed Southern Section Bylaws and stated that the document will be renumbered and missing words and phrases inserted. She gave the following summary of changes:

- (1) The geographical areas of the Southern Section are inserted in Section #1.
- (2) The Section Committee was removed from the list of Standing Committees.
- (3) The phrase "**Section Committee**" replaces the phrase "Executive Committee" in 4.7. The Section Committee is composed of the Section officers and one designated representative/delegate from each club in the Southern Section. The Southern Section Vice President is the chair of the Section Committee.
- (4) The Elected Southern Section Officers comprise the Executive Committee. The Southern Section Vice President is the chair of the Executive Committee. The **Executive Committee** shall convene when an emergency arises that impairs efficient operation of the **Section** and a meeting of the **Section Committee** is impossible.
- (5) New Committees are Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Elections Committee, Nominating Committee and the Communications Committee.
- (6) Additions were made to the responsibilities of all elected officers and committees. Each committee must make a written report at each sectional membership meeting
- (7) The title of Section # 6 Election, Voting and Vacancies was changed to Nominating, Election, Voting and Vacancies.

Worth Christler reminded the Chair that changes were also made in the Nominating and Elections Committee. In response, she thanked Worth for reminding her of this *important change* and stated the following:

"...The Nominating and Elections Committee has been changed to two separate committees for the purpose of improving the nominations and elections processes in the Southern Section..."

She read the following descriptions of the Nominating Committee and the Elections Committee:

- a. *The Nominating Committee shall be an Ad Hoc Committee that exists until the end of the voting period.*
 - (1) *Its members shall be elected by the Southern Section membership at least ninety (90) days (3 months) prior to the first Section meeting (January) in the year prior to the election of officers.*
 - (2) *The Section Vice President shall have nothing to do with the composition and activity of the Nominating Committee.*
- b. *The Election Committee shall be a Standing Committee, appointed by the Section Vice President by the Fall Section meeting, at least one year before the election of officers. Shall present the procedures to the general membership for approval at the first Section meeting (January) in the year of the election of officers.*

Members asked about the terms of office for the Southern Section officers. The Chair stated that the terms of office for the Southern Section Officers did not change in the proposed Southern Section Bylaws.

ACTION

The Section Vice-President called for the vote. And, the MOTION that the revised Bylaws of the Southern Section be approved (accepted) carried without dissent.

RESULT

The *revised Bylaws of the Southern Section* were APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT | MOTION BY SECONDED BY

There, being no further business to come before *the Southern Section*, at 12 PM, it was MOVED that The Sectional membership meeting be adjourned. The MOTION was SECONDED, unanimously CARRIED and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Gwendolyn L. White, Section Secretary.

Signature: Gwendolyn Littleton White
Gwendolyn Littleton White (Jan 24, 2017)

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