

Subject: June 2014 Minutes of ACBL Unit 361 Board Meeting
Date: Saturday, May 31, 2014 (a June meeting could not be scheduled.)
Time: 10:30am
In Attendance: Board members: Joan Kushner, Bill Beard. Lori Beard, Jim Calhoun,
Jeanne Achziger, Marilyn Ballon, Margaret Devere,
Shirley Heinsohn, Pat Henke, Bonnie Smith
District 17 Representatives: Flo Newlin and Jerry Ranney
Legal Counsel: Forest Clark

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Kushner. Congratulations and best wishes were extended to Jim Calhoun regarding his impending nuptials.

APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

The May minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A balance sheet was given to each Board member. Total liabilities & Equity is \$113,458.34. A preliminary report had been e-mailed to all Board members. Lori Beard reported that Unit 361 was essentially breaking even as regards the May Regional. A full list of statistics has not been received as yet so a full report will be e-mailed to all members after all statistics have been incorporated into the report. The tournament was down 135 tables and this may have been due to the weather and the fact that the GNT's were held during the final days of the tournament.

Marilyn Ballon requested a check for one of the caddies in the amount of \$315.00. Lori beard will issue a check for the amount requested. Food was provided for the caddies at the Regional In the amount of \$100.00. The Regional budget allows for this coverage and this tradition will be continued at future Regionals.

The charity event produced \$112.00. The contribution from the sanction fee was \$220.00. This amount was matched by our Unit. A contribution of \$550.00 was sent to our designated charity" The Food Bank of the Rockies".

The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Web-site

Margaret Devere reported that the directors posted all Regional results to the web-site as previously agreed upon. She posted all results to the Bulletin. There were not enough Regional flyers so next year more will be printed.

Hospitality

Jeanne Achziger reported that registration went very well during the week except for one afternoon when three of the four designated volunteers were not able to work as they were playing bridge. Next year, a roster of the location of events will be given to the persons manning the registration desk and/or a sign will be present at the desk to indicate the location of all events including the GNT's. Also, since the directors decide where all events are held, they too can be consulted as to the various locations. Jim Calhoun will check with the Head Director regarding the different venues and then make the appropriate signs next year.

Some of the printed labels were not picked up so they are being taken to the House of Cards and the Metro Bridge Club for possible distribution. It was not always noted on the registration card whether people were registered at the hotel. Bill Beard has a method that will provide statistics that determine whether players are at the hotel, therefore, this task will not be included in the registration duties next year. Name tags that were at the registration desk were returned to Jim Calhoun. The location of the registration desk in the front lobby worked very well.

"Lost & Found" containers have been available at the Regional and Sectionals and they are now full. After discussion, it was decided that all items in the "Lost & Found" will be donated to Good Will if they are not claimed after the November Sectional. Margaret Devere will post this on the web-site so that all members will be informed of this decision and can claim any lost items. The containers will be on site at the July and November tournaments.

Joan Kushner discussed the patch that was included in the registration packet. It served its purpose by provoking awareness and discussion as well as being a symbol of historical significance. Some people approved, some disapproved. Many wanted extras because of its collectible significance.

There were inquiries about restaurants, coupons, and discounts. Next year, the registration packet may include a booklet with maps, restaurant lists and discount availabilities. The hotel does not allow the Unit to pass out discount coupons, etc. so if they are to be given to the players, they must be included in the packet at registration.

REGIONAL REVIEW

Regional Chair Report

Bill Beard, the Regional Chairman, thanked everyone on the Board for their assistance. The Board congratulated Bill Beard and his assistants for running a very successful and enjoyable tournament. Bill Beard recommended that the Head Director and the Set-Up Director should always be consulted before any tables are set up so that the correct array may be achieved.

Discussion was held regarding having a hospitality room for players at future Regionals. Apparently, several players inquired about the availability of a hospitality room. Joan Kushner will check at other tournaments as to their accommodation for a hospitality room. The hotel will need to be consulted as to its rules and regulations. Flo Newlin stated that a hospitality room had been available at other tournaments but was not used very much so many tournaments have discontinued providing them. The Unit would probably have to pay for a room or a suite for this purpose. Jerry Ranney stated that other tournaments have had successful hospitality rooms because the hotel allowed the Units to bring in their own food. Flo Newlin observed that having a hospitality room is very costly and time-consuming. Next year, the committee in charge of the Regional will check with the hotel and determine whether it will be feasible to have one.

Margaret Devere complimented hospitality on the improvement of snacks and treats at all our tournaments. All members of the board agreed.

Bill Beard discussed that he was concerned that the Renaissance Hotel may not have enough available space for our Regional in the future. The hotel was made aware of the problem and revealed that it has another 3500 sq. feet available on the 3rd floor. This area would be available at no extra cost to the Unit. Bill Beard checked with another hotel that is more centrally located, but the costs would be much higher at this other hotel: That hotel would require an extra fee of \$35,000 for the use of the ballroom which the Unit gets for no extra cost at the Renaissance. The Board members were in agreement that The Renaissance was probably the best choice as far as what is available and as far as costs are concerned.

The drawbacks to the hotel are mainly its lack of sufficient service staff and restaurant facilities, and some very uncomfortable chairs. Any interested Board members can attend the exit interview with the hotel and express their concerns about these issues. Joan Kushner stated that all complaints have been voiced before and the hotel is aware of these problems. Bill Beard stated that the hotel may have difficulties increasing staff for the hotel for just one week. These problems will be presented again to the hotel. The possibility of having the hotel provide a buffet for the players in between sessions is a viable suggestion and the hotel will be asked about this next year.

Bill Beard proposed the following: That Unit 361 hold the GNT's every year. Since the hotel will provide extra playing room at no extra cost, having the GNT's would not be a problem. D17 pays the Unit \$600 for paper, caddies and other miscellaneous expenses. D17 also will pay the director fees per session/per diem and all the sanctions and board fees. This will reduce the director costs substantially. The GNT events have raised &7,000.00 in entry fees so D17 has passed out \$7,000.00 for travel expenses for GNT players. Many players like to attend the GNT events and our Unit wishes to encourage these player to

attend our Regional. The GNT's provide an excellent opportunity to encourage players, old and new, to attend the Denver Regional.

Jim Calhoun agreed and actually predicted an increase in tables over time since people come to play and may play in many of the other events as well as the GNT's.

Flo Newlin reported that The GNT's will never be held in Albuquerque or Phoenix. Las Vegas had a lot of problems when they hosted the GNT's so they do not wish to host them again. The D17 representatives have to report to D17 with a deadline of 30 days regarding whether Unit 361 wants to host the GNT's in the future. After discussion, the Board unanimously voted to host the GNT's through the length of contracts with the hotel which will take the Unit through 3 more years to 2019.

Unit 361 has contracts through 2015 and 2016 with the Renaissance Hotel. The Unit in the past has guaranteed the hotel 75% of 610 rooms. The hotel is requiring that the Unit guarantee 75% of 635 rooms in the future. Joan Kushner has the contracts for 3 more years. Forest Clark, the Unit legal advisor has checked the contracts with the hotel and D17 has approved. Joan Kushner will consult with Forest Clark and Bill Beard regarding the contracts and then the signed contracts will be given to the hotel management.

Partnerships

Shirley Heinsohn reported that there were no problems with the partnership arrangements. Everything went very well. Feedback from some players who were involved was very positive.

Caddies

Marilyn Ballon reported that she had 12 total caddies who worked the tournament. Some did not always show up for the event they were scheduled to cover but 7 were always available and they did a wonderful job. The Board members agreed that the caddies with did an excellent job.

Photography

Photography was not always available as Sheryl Siegel was not present at all events. The photographer, Sheryl Siegel, will need a schedule that will specify when photographs are to be taken. This schedule should accommodate her schedule as well as the tournament sessions' schedule. It was suggested that more than one person should be available to take photographs and that one of the Board members, who is staying in a room paid for by the Unit, could be responsible for this job. Pat Henke has volunteered to assist Sheryl Siegel with photography and to help co-ordinate the taking of photographs in the future. A board displaying the photographs is needed as well. The location of the photography display board was not clear. These concerns will be addressed before the Regional next year. Margaret Devere brought in a picture printer that was left at the Regional and it will be given to Sheryl Siegel. The

camera bag had been misplaced but Lori Beard located it and will bring it to for Sheryl Siegel. Margaret Devere needs the photographs that are available so they can be posted to the web-site. Carolyn Newcomb may have all photographs available and Margaret Devere will check with her. Bill Beard suggested that players could take pictures of themselves and e-mail them to Sheryl Siegel, however, these pictures would have to be digital so that the resolution is adequate.

Pro-Am Event

All members of the Pro-Am committee were congratulated on the planning and execution of an excellent event. The committee consisted of Shelbie Bastiaans, Penny Coffman and Flo Newlin. It was a very successful event and was enjoyed by all who attended. A new committee will be needed for next year. Flo Newlin will be happy to assist with finding Pro's for the event next year. The Board voted unanimously to give 5 free plays to Shelbie Bastiaans and to Joan Mager for their volunteer work at the Regional in the Pro-Am event and Charity event respectively. Joan Kushner gave Sheryl Siegel 4 free plays for her work as the photographer.

Regional Committee

A schedule and budget must be prepared for next year and approved. Bill Beard and Jerry Ranney were appointed by Joan Kushner to assist with the schedule and budget for the next Regional in Denver in 2015. A full committee will be appointed next year before the Regional.

FRONT RANGE CHALLENGE

Jim Calhoun is Unit 361's chair of the Front Range Challenge. He will co-ordinate with Chris Champion from Colorado Springs in organizing the tournament and then will report results to Joan Kushner. After the July tournament, pairs and teams will be invited to compete in the event. Margaret Devere will need information e-mailed to her so she can post the information on the web-site and prepare the flyers. Jim Calhoun informed the board that there has never been a flyer for the Front Range Challenge.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

I/N Tournament

The I/N tournament may be outgrowing the House of Cards facility. Shelbie Bastiaans is looking for alternative sites that would provide more space and adequate parking. Possible areas may be the

Aurora Event Center, St.Mary's High School or Regis High School. Margaret Devere will need information for the web-site and flyers as soon as decisions are made.

Sectional Tournament

The Board voted unanimously to include a Dupli-Swiss for the Thursday game at the November Sectional. Bill Beard will consult with Bill Michael regarding the cost of duplicating the boards for the Thursday night Swiss team. The cost that Bill Michael quoted for duplicating the boards and for an additional director for the Sunday Swiss would be approximately \$500.00. An additional director will be needed for the Sunday Swiss if duplicated boards are used. The committee that was appointed to plan for future changes in events at the Sectional will schedule a meeting during the last week of June and will notify the Board of all recommendations. Bill Beard will notify committee members of the date of the meeting. The Board will then decide on future changes or additions to the events. Flo Newlin will contact Bill Michael regarding duplicating costs. Margaret Devere will need to receive the information regarding any changes in events as early as possible, so that they can be posted on the web-site and for preparation of flyers. Margaret Devere will need all relevant information regarding the November Sectional tournament as soon as possible so that flyers can be prepared in a timely fashion.

Nominating Committee

Bill Beard is the acting nominating chairman. The nominating committee typically has been comprised of 5 people, 3 Board members and 2 non-board members. The last 2 years there were only 3 people. The Vice President and 2 other members must be included. The committee, this year will consist of Bill Beard, Joan Kushner, Flo Newlin, and Penny Coffman.

Lori Beard and Bill Beard unfortunately will not be serving on the Unit Board next year. Allan Kane and Phil Debus are suggested nominees to the Board. Margaret Devere is undecided whether she will serve in the same capacity. Nancy Rassbach is retiring and has volunteered to work with the Unit.

DISTRICT 17 ANNOUNCEMENTS/BUSINESS

Jerry Ranney reported that D17 approved the raising of entry fees to \$12.00 per session, and sanction fees to \$8.00. D17 is keeping \$3.00 of the \$4.00 increased fee. Two of the reasons for the raise in fees is to cover half of Las Vegas Unit's loss and to guarantee the Albuquerque Unit \$9,000.00 for their Regional. D17 was prepared to absorb a \$20,000 loss but because of the above mentioned losses, the loss was \$40,000. As well, over the last 4 years, the District has incurred a \$2.00 loss per table from a variety of costs that include senior and youth discounts, board duplication, the subsidizing of reception costs at the Regionals, bridge-mates and I/N tournament subsidy. In the coming years, the sanction fee may be lowered gradually.

Flo Newlin reported that Robert Hartman and Sylvia Hartman attended our Regional. Robert Hartman is the CEO of the ACBL and is dedicated to improving all areas of bridge for all level of players. Sylvia

Hartman is doing work to change the career paths for tournament directors in order to provide all ACBL tournaments with very competent and friendly directors. There is now a zero tolerance law in effect for Directors as well as players. The objectives are to promote bridge and increase all players' enjoyment of the game as well while expanding ACBL enrollment.

Flo Newlin also reported that everyone should be aware that the ACBL web-site will include some changes. A "Learn to Play Bridge" site will be available.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Calhoun reported that a new director is available to work in our area. If he is hired, Bill Michael will add him to events as an extra director. This would be an extra cost to the Unit. This subject will be put on the agenda for next month's Board meeting.

At a meeting of Bill Beard, Bill Michael and Gary Zeiger, a decision was made to retain John Worley as a director on a trial basis.

Flo Newlin attended a class, "Teaching Bridge in Schools", that Jim Calhoun teaches to many students. She extended kudos to Jim Calhoun regarding this wonderful class. All agreed that this is an excellent way to introduce the game to younger players in the hopes that they will learn to love the game and possibly join our ranks someday.

Joan Kushner will contact Mike Thompson regarding changing the venue of the Board meeting to the Denver Metro Bridge Club. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 28th At the House of Cards.

Joan Kushner requested that any agenda items for the next meeting be e-mailed to her.

No further business was discussed. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Bonnie Smith

