

Subject: December 2014 Holiday Party and Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2014

Location: Clubhouse at 6401 South Boston Street, Greenwood Village

Time: 6:00pm

In Attendance: Board Members: Joan Kushner, Bill Beard, Lori Beard,  
Jeanne Achziger, Marilyn Ballon, Jim Calhoun, Margaret Devere,  
Shirley Heinsohn, Pat Henke, Bonnie Smith

Honored Guests: D17 Representatives: Flo Newlin & Jerry Ranney  
Forest Clark: Legal Council  
Frank Queen: ACBL Board of Governors  
Carolyn Newcomb: Western Conference Board  
Jared Johnson: Denver Post Bridge Columnist  
Penny Coffman: Recorder and Good Will Amb.  
Susan Grauer: Conduct and Ethics Chair  
Philip Debus: New Board Member  
Allen Kane: New Board Member

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Kushner after a buffet dinner was enjoyed by all present. She welcomed everyone and then announced that Lori and Bill Beard were retiring from the Unit Board. She wished to honor them and thanked them for their years of excellent service to the Board and stated how much all their dedicated efforts have been appreciated. All members present concurred and congratulated Lori and Bill Beard on their years of excellent service to the Unit. Lori and Bill Beard thanked the Board and honored guests as well. One of the functions of this Board meeting will be to elect persons to fill their vacated positions.

#### APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

All present at the meeting received a copy of the "Balance sheet "as of December 9th, 2014. The total Liabilities & Equity is \$104,337.76. The "November Sectional Tournament Report was also submitted and both reports will be stored with the hard copy of these minutes. The Unit showed a loss even though a record attendance was present at the Sectional. Allen Kane asked why a loss was incurred in

view of the fact that attendance has increased. The explanation for the loss is that costs are considerably higher for hospitality, directing, etc. and so a loss was noted despite the increased attendance. Lori Beard reported that she had received requests from several Unit members for a Sunday Pairs game at the Sectional. The January Sectional is all paid for and the cost for the flyers is reflected in the report as well. Discussion was held as to the possibility of raising fees and it was agreed that the Unit's main concern is providing the best playing conditions, directors and hospitality possible, and that, at this time, the treasury balance is adequate for these objectives. The opinion of the Board was that the Unit can withstand some minor losses for the time being without raising the entry fees. Philip Debus was present as a consultant during the budget meetings and he concurred with this position. A motion was passed not to raise fees at this time.

Flo Newlin reminded the Board that \$10,000 is present in the treasury that will be used to fund the NABC that will be held in the Denver in 2015. This sum is reflected in the current Balance Sheet report under the heading "230- Fund restricted for 2015 NABC". Lori Beard has conferred with Phil Debus regarding the current accounting procedures as Phil Debus is a nominee for the position of Treasurer for the Unit Board. The "Treasurer's Report" was accepted unanimously.

## SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Bill Beard conducted the election of officers to the Board for the term beginning in January 2015. He called for nominations from the floor. The following people were nominated and were unopposed and were voted in by acclamation: Joan Kushner for the office of President, Margaret Devere for the office of Vice President, Philip Debus for the office of Treasurer and Bonnie Smith for the office of Secretary. All elected officers thanked everyone present. As well, Allan Kane was welcomed to the Board and has adopted the role of Tournament Chairman.

Philip Debus announced that he was privileged to sit in on the budget meetings and he concurred with the decision to not worry about losing small amounts of money at the Sectionals but to put the emphasis on providing the best hospitality and playing conditions for all player.

## NEW BUSINESS

Further Committee Chairs will appointed by Joan Kushner, the President, and approved by the Unit Board at the next Board meeting. Joan Kushner would like everyone to let her know if there is some job that they would like to be involved in next year.

Joan also asked Flo Newlin how any one particular member could be nominated for the D17 Board of Directors. Flo Newlin explained that anyone can nominate themselves and submitted the following information that is from Article VI in the bylaws for D17:

During August of each year, each eligible member in a Unit may submit the name of a qualified League member residing within the District area in which the Unit is located, as a nominee for election to the Board for the ensuing two years. The Election Secretary shall notify each such Unit whether its incumbent Board Representative is seeking reelection. Nominations are to be submitted no later than September 30. Nominations postmarked after that date will be invalid. If the name of only one

nominee is submitted for an area, the mailing of ballots shall be dispensed with and such nominee shall be declared elected.

Upon receipt of the nomination, a ballot is prepared for submission during October that will list the nominees for election from its area and request that the Unit vote be recorded exactly as cast by its Board of Directors. Ballots are to be returned no later than November 30.

In addition, each nominee shall be promptly notified of the other nominees from his/her area; election shall be by a majority vote. When a candidate does not receive better than 50% of the vote, a runoff will be held between the first and second place contenders; runoffs shall be held prior to December 25; in the event a runoff results in a tie, the tie will be broken by the Election Secretary via the flip of a coin done in the presence of an officer of the Election Secretary's home Unit, who will affix his or her signature to documentation confirming the result. During August of each year, notice of the upcoming Board elections and a summary of the relevant election procedures should be published in the Unit's ScoreCard.

Joan Kushner suggested that all these facts could be added to the Scorecard, the web-site, Table Talk and possibly announced in the Forum. Frank Queen reported that each Unit should receive a letter announcing the deadline for nominees.

Joan wished to table some of the discussions on the planned agenda and address them at the January meeting. If anyone has items that they wish to have included in the January agenda, they should e-mail Joan Kushner with their thoughts.

Joan Kushner asked for volunteers to take flyers for our regional to various tournaments. Joan will take them to Palm Springs. A variety of board members volunteered to take flyers to other tournaments.

Ruth Pana and Tom Berger will conduct the annual audit for 2014.

Margaret Devere addressed the vu-graph needs for the Denver 2015 National tournament. She has consulted with an ACBL representative regarding these needs. Various events will need coverage and if anyone is interested in being a vu-graph operator, they should inform Margaret Devere. There will be commentators analyzing the bridge bids and play. The vu-graph operators will not be commentating. One vu-graph operator will be needed for each table. They will track all the bidding and activity that is pertinent at the table. A personal laptop would be helpful. Margaret Devere is going to volunteer for this and many volunteers will be needed. Some training will be given to make the volunteers comfortable with this job.

Margaret Devere then addressed the new Privacy Policies of the ACBL. Everyone has received an e-mail regarding this policy. The ACBL web-site can also be accessed regarding this policy. The wording of their policies is not completely clear but she understood that all Units must be pro-active about their directory. Margaret Devere's opinion is that it is prohibitive to contact every person in the directory. Members need to be informed of the policy and given opportunities to tell the Unit that they don't want to be in the directory next year. Joan Kushner suggested that the package for new members should include the policy with an explanation as to choices for the member. Jim Calhoun read some of the policy recorded by the ACBL. Frank Queen announced that the Board of Directors makes the policy.

The Board of Governors considers the policy. Our Unit #361 Board decided to address these policies as best as possible.

After discussion, the Board decided that a sign should be posted at the upcoming Sectional regarding the policy and that players should contact Margaret DeVere if they wanted any changes regarding their inclusion in the 2015 directory. Joan Kushner would make announcements before each event, and postings would be made on our web-site. An addendum can also be put in our 2015 Directory as to the policy and the choices available to all members for following years. Also, Table Talk could include a notification of this policy with the available choices. Jim Calhoun volunteered to make the sign to be posted at the January Sectional. Joan Kushner will make the announcements before the events. Bill Beard emphasized the need and importance of the directory to the membership of our Unit.

Flo Newlin reported that Bonnie Bagley is very knowledgeable about this issue and can answer any questions about this policy. The Board agreed that all reasonable measures to inform our Unit's members should be addressed so that every person's privacy rights are addressed and respected.

## D17

On behalf of D17, Flo Newlin thanked Lori and Bill Beard for their incredible, dedication to Unit 361 and their work beyond their "job descriptions". The Board and all honored guest concurred. D17 has their next meeting in Tucson.

## ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Calhoun announced that the ACBL, in conjunction with the Board of Governors, is setting up a College Bowl. The event will include four to six man teams. The finals will be played at the Chicago NABC. The ACBL is planning to incorporate electronic Swiss team and KO scoring by the second quarter of 2015. This may be added to our Thursday night Swiss team game in March. Joan Kushner asked that the information for this be e-mailed to her, and that this could be addressed at the next meeting of the Unit.

Front Range Challenge reports have been resubmitted to the correct area. Joan Kushner would like to be informed as to its conclusion.

Allen Kane, as Chairman of the January Sectional, reported that Bill Michael approached him at the November tournament about employing Blair Young as an assistant. It was decided that it would be good idea to employ Blair Young as an assistant to Bill Michael. The Board voted unanimously to have Blair Young be an assistant to Bill Michael at the January tournament. The Unit will pay the appropriate fee for his services.

Flo Newlin asked the Board members to come and support Jim Calhoun's group of students. The students meet on Thursdays at Lakewood High School and all support would be very welcome. The table count is now up to over four tables. These are a very enthusiastic group of students and this would be a

wonderful way to promote bridge among young, new players. If anyone would like to assist with their experience, please contact Jim Calhoun or Flo Newlin.

Al Kane asked about the procedure to add or change events at our Sectional tournaments. Joan Kushner suggested that this be added to the agenda for the January meeting.

The next meeting will be Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Denver Metro Bridge Club at 10:30am.

Meeting adjourned

Respectively Submitted

Bonnie Smith