

Subject: November 2014 Board Meeting of ACBL Unit 361
Date: Monday, November 3, 2014
Location: House of Cards
Time: 4:30pm
In Attendance: Board Members: Joan Kushner, Bill Beard, Lori Beard,
Jim Calhoun, Jeanne Achziger, Marilyn Ballon,
Shirley Heinsohn, Pat Henke, Bonnie Smith
D17 Representatives: Flo Newlin and Jerry Ranney
Absent Board Member: Margaret Devere
Legal Counsel: Forest Clark

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Kushner.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

The minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lori Beard had sent an e-mail to all Board Members regarding the outcome of the I/N tournament and the Front Range Challenge. The I/N tournament showed a loss \$500.00. The Front Range Challenge showed a gain of \$393.00. Marilyn Ballon's clubhouse is the chosen site for the holiday party/Board meeting. Marilyn Ballon has been issued checks in the amount of \$100.00 and \$300.00 to cover the cost of renting her clubhouse for the December meeting/ holiday party and for the refundable deposit respectively. The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

UPDATE OR I/N TOURNAMENT

Pat Henke reported that the tournament went well and that Burke Snowden did an excellent job as director. The table count of the I/N tournament was down considerably from the spring tournament. Discussion was held regarding the possible reasons for this and ways to improve the attendance for the next tournament. Pat Henke, Shirley Heinsohn and Joan Kushner had all called the I/N players previous to the tournament in preparation. Flyers had been sent out to the clubs.

Joan Kushner asked Jeanne Achziger if she would ask bridge teacher, Chuck Goudy, if he could take pictures of the winners as none were taken after the tournament. Joan has the list of the winners and

will submit them to Chuck if he is willing to do this. Pat Henke will take pictures after the next tournament.

Pat Henke posited the opinion that the table count may have been down this time because she did not repeat her visit to all the clubs, verbally advertising the tournament ,as she had for the spring tournament.

Jeanne Achziger suggested a survey regarding the tournament be given to the I/N players asking what their opinions are about how to improve the experience at the tournament. The surveys could be distributed to bridge teachers for distribution to the I/N players as well. Bill Beard suggested that we look at the web-site to attain the complete list of players who attended the spring tournament and compare this to the players who attended the fall tournament. The survey could then be sent all I/N players as well as bridge teachers. Pat Henke and Jeanne Achziger will compose the questions for the survey and then Pat Henke will send them out. The directors, Alice Kinningham and Burke Snowden, should also have the list of players at the spring and fall tournaments, respectively. Joan Kushner suggested that the survey be placed on our web-site as well.

The I/N flyers for the next tournament will also be mailed to all the bridge teachers so that they can also inform their students of the tournament. This concluded the discussion of the I/N tournament.

FRONT RANGE CHALLENGE

Joan Kushner requested a budget from Jim Calhoun for the next Front Range Challenge that is held in Denver so that the hospitality can be more readily addressed and improved at the next Denver hosting of the tournament.

A discussion was held as to the fairness of the pair game set-up in the "A" category. Concerns were expressed from Colorado Springs and Denver participants. Flo Newlin, who was a participant this year in that category, stated that all the "A" players representing Denver were all North/South and the Colorado Springs players were all East/West. Jim Calhoun said that this seemed to be the best set-up for this category. Several members of the Board felt that the field could be more evenly distributed by having half of each city play in each direction and then the scoring would reflect a more accurate result. Colorado Springs will be hosting this event next year. We will attempt to make the distribution of players more equitable in the future.

Jery Ranney suggested the Board review the "Conditions of Contest". Jim Calhoun had looked for these and had asked John Grossman for a copy but to no avail. If they can be located, they will be used as a reference tool in the future.

Jim Calhoun reported that there were 32 tables in the team game and 14 tables in each category in the pair event.

Marilyn Ballon said that she had heard that Colorado Springs was not happy with the event as a whole and suggested that perhaps we should not have the event if this is the case. A general discussion was held regarding the lack of hospitality. All that was provided was what the players had paid for, which was lunch, which itself was wanting. The general concensus of the attendees was that all food and

other hospitality should be improved in the future. A budget will be approved by the Board for Denver's hosting of future Front Range Challenge Events in order to rectify this problem.

Jim Calhoun has given Margaret Devere the pictures of the winners and these will be included on the web-site. He will also have the name of the winning cities engraved on the trophy. Steve Weintz of the House of Cards will assist with this project and Jim Calhoun will inform Joan Kushner when the engraving has been completed. Discussion was concluded regarding this topic.

NOVEMBER SECTIONAL UP-DATE

Lori Beard reported that the Sectional is all paid for at this time.

Joan Kushner has contracts for the next three sectionals and they are signed.

Caddies

Marilyn Ballon is all set regarding the caddies: One for Thursday (she is using the experienced caddy that worked in the Front Range Challenge; Jim Calhoun provided the caddy information); two for Friday; two for Saturday; and four for Sunday.

Joan Kushner requested that Marilyn Ballon be present on Sunday to supervise the caddies while they assist with cleaning up the site, as well as putting away boards, bidding boxes and table cards. Joan was under the impression that this task was included in the salary of the caddies but Marilyn Ballon had a note specifying that 'clean-up' was an extra task and that the caddies would be paid another \$15.00 to assist with this, therefore, the caddies will be paid the extra amount if they assist with clean-up.

The age limit of caddies was discussed. Flo Newlin has the ACBL laws regarding caddies which she will share with the Board. The age of caddies has varied over the years.

Supplies

Bill Beard reported that the supply box was at the Jeffco site. Al Kane accompanied Bill to the site and has been given instruction regarding the Sectional. Al Kane is listed on the flyer as the Sectional Chair and Joan Kushner will call him to inform him of the inclusion of his name and confirm this with him.

Bill Beard reported that one of the boxes has an extremely damaged wheel and another is in need of replacing. The Board voted unanimously to replace these two boxes. The cost to replace the boxes is \$750.00 each. Jim Calhoun will make the boxes as he has expertly done before. The Unit owns a total of 12 boxes for storage of tables and supplies.

Hospitality

Jeanne Achziger has bought all the supplies and everything is in order.

She will send a reminder to the caterer regarding the beverage order. Jerry Ranney will bring 120 pounds of ice and will be responsible for it on Thursday. The caterer will then be responsible for the ice on Friday through Sunday. Jeanne Achziger will check with the caterer about this as well.

Election Protocol

Bill Beard reported that an announcement will be made on Thursday, November 6th at the Sectional at 6:45pm that the election meeting has commenced. The slate of candidates for the Unit 361 Board will be announced and he will ask for nominations from the floor as well. When this is concluded, he will ask for a motion to close the nominations. The slate for 2015 will be announced and if no new nominations have been received, he will ask for acceptance by acclamation. If new nominations are received, ballots and a ballot box will be supplied to the Unit members to be in use at the Sectional by Friday November, 7th. The Unit members can then vote on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The ballots and box will have to be assembled by the Board members Thursday evening after the event. Bonnie Smith suggested that, in the future, nominations for the Board be requested at an earlier Sectional as well as at the final Sectional in November, so that the Unit members could be more informed and the Unit could be more prepared regarding the possible election. Flo Newlin suggested that nominations be called for in the publication "Table Talk". Inclusion on the web-site was also a viable suggestion posed. These suggestions will be considered next year by the Board.

Bill Beard reported that the directors are trying to set up movements at the tournament that will allow for all players to play the same boards. It is possible that Bill Michael may not be present at the November Sectional but other directors are prepared to run the tournament if necessary.

TABLE TALK

Jim Calhoun reported that he picked up the extra copies of "Table Talk". Joan Kushner suggested that in the future, she update player information on the web-site monthly and that the yearly presidential publication, "Table Talk", include more current information, appropriate summaries, kudos, etc rather than all the aforementioned information. The Board concurred with that suggestion and so Joan Kushner will post on the web-site monthly and adjust "Table Talk" accordingly.

WEB=SITE/FLYERS

Margaret DeVere was not present but an e-mail that she sent to all Board members is being included in these minutes. It is as follows:

"I have the January flyers ready to set out at the November sectional. I have gotten them posted to the ACBL website. I have sent the ad to Kitty Cooper for the Forum. I have not posted the flyer to the unit website or sent any of them out to the clubs or set up the eblast – I will get that done.

The regional flyers are at the printer right now, and I will have them in time for the November sectional. We can set them out, and also give as many as you like to Bill Michael for taking to Providence.

Some details about printing the regional flyers. Print jobs are in increments of 2500, so we're getting 5000, for about \$440.00. I asked about getting some printed on less glossy stock, but that has to be done in a separate print job, which would double our costs. So I didn't do it.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The annual holiday party/ December Board meeting will be held at the clubhouse at Marilyn Ballon's complex on Thursday, December 11th. The address for the clubhouse is as follows:

6401 South Boston Street

Greenwood Village, 80111

The party will begin at 6:00pm instead of 5:30pm to allow for the set-up of the caterer. The party is being catered by John Marinos. All Board members will bring any alcohol that they wish to consume. The clubhouse has a Keurig coffee machine. Jeanne Achziger will check with the caterer regarding provision of plates, cups, napkins and utensils. Marilyn Ballon will check to see if her complex will be decorating the clubhouse for the holidays and, if not, Jeanne Achziger and Bonnie Smith will take care of the above.

Flo Newlin offered to bring some Keurig coffee. Jerry Ranney offered to bring soda pop and Forest Clark enjoys providing some wine for the members as well. The Board is very grateful to for these generous gifts.

The directions are as follows: Begin at I25 and Arapahoe Road. Go East on Arapahoe Road to South Boston Street. This is a light.

Turn left (North) on South Boston Street. Go 2/3 blocks to an area called "Bridgewater". Turn left (West) into this area and go straight ahead. The clubhouse is in the middle of the complex and directly on this path.

Bonnie Smith will mail out invitations to the honored guests. The guest list includes Flo Newlin,

Jerry Ranney, Forest Clark, Phil Debus, Al Kane, Frank Queen, Carolyn Newcomb, Penny Coffman, Susan Grauer and Jared Johnson.

The cost to all Board Members is \$25.00 and the check should be made out to Celestial Caterers. The Unit will pay for all honored guests and for the rental of the clubhouse.

BRIDGE CLUB CONSIDERATION

Every year Unit 361 gives some money to the bridges clubs that allow the Unit to hold its Board meetings on their sites. Eight meetings were held at the House of Cards and two meetings were held at the Denver Metro Bridge club, therefore, three quarters of the allowable funds will go to the House of Cards and on quarter will go to the Denver Metro Bridge Club.

DISTRICT 17 REPORT

Jerry Ranney reported that the D17 meetings will be held in Tuscon, Las Vegas, and Phoenix in 2015. The ACBL is now allowing 4th place overall winners in the NAOP to play in the finals. The ACBL awards some monies to first and second place and the D17 will award \$200.00 to third and \$100.00 to fourth place.

Jerry Ranney also reported that the Denver schedule and budget were approved. Additional bracketing was added to the Swiss event. Margaret Devere will be informed and this will be posted on the web-site.

The charity grant awards were made and the D17 Board members decided to give the grants to the Units that had not received an award in 2005 and 2010. Unit 361 had received a grant in the past. There were 24 nominations submitted and all were very worthy causes and so the selection process was very difficult. In the future, the D17 Board is contemplating asking each Unit to review all nominations from their respective area and choose one to be submitted for the next series of grants.

Flo Newlin reported that that a regional survey has been posted to the D17 website and is she is encouraging all members to access the website and take the survey so that all members' preferences can be gained. This will allow the D17, and subsequently the ACBL to make choices that reflect the members' wishes.

Flo Newlin also announced that she is up for re-election. She is now running un-opposed but she wanted all members to know that they or anyone they wished to nominate may run for the position. She wished all members to be informed of all options. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who wants to run for this position, the names should be submitted.

FI Newlin reported that she is the co-chair of the Caddy Committee for D17. Forest Clark has given the Colorado laws to Flo and these will be considered when setting up criteria for the caddies. She is collecting data from many other cities as regards their caddy protocols. The age of the caddies is a major consideration and this varies from place to place. These criteria are for D17. The Unit Board will still have jurisdiction over their selection of caddies.

Flo Newlin submitted a letter regarding the selection of recipients of the charitable grants. She thanked Sherry Clint, Jeanne Achziger and Bonnie Smith for their nominations. On behalf of all the persons who nominated a charity, Bonnie Smith thanked Flo Newlin and Jerry Ranney for all their support and effort on behalf of their charity nominations.

The next meeting will take place after the December party at the clubhouse in Marilyn Ballon's complex on December 11, 2014. The party begins at 6:00pm.No further business. Meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted

Bonnie Smith