

Subject: Minutes of Unit 361/ACBL Board Meeting

Date: April 4, 2015 (This meeting reflects the combined agendas of March and April as the March meeting had to be cancelled and could not be rescheduled in March)

Location: Denver Metro Bridge Club

Time: 10:30 am

In Attendance: Jeanne Achziger, Marilyn Ballon, Jim Calhoun, Margaret Devere, Pat Henke, Shirley Heinsohn, Al Kane, Joan Kushner

Absent: Board Members: Phil Debus, Bonnie Smith
D17 Representatives: Flo Newlin, Jerry Ranney
Legal Council: Forest Clark

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Kushner

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded and the February minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Phil Debus was not present at this meeting, however, he had sent all financial records via e-mail to all Board Members. Discussion of the treasurer's report reflected that the Unit lost \$1600 at the March Sectional. The dupli-swiss cost an extra \$900. Margaret Devere felt we needed to address the increasing costs of hospitality. The cost of providing chocolate is fairly high. A suggestion was made to cut out snacks after lunch and/or not to provide lunch on Friday and Saturday. More discussion will be held via e-mail and decisions may be made at the next Board meeting. Entry fees may need to be increased to cover these increased costs.

Total liabilities and equity in the treasury are \$99,563.94.

Phil Debus had filed the tax return and a copy of the return was sent to Bonnie Smith, Unit Secretary.

A motion was made and seconded and the treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

I/N SECTIONAL UPDATE

Pat Henke will be solely responsible for the I/N Tournament. All preparations are completed. Marilyn Ballon will get a caddy for the event. The event is being held on April 18 and April 19 at the House of Cards.

REGIONAL UP-DATE

Jerry Ranney was not present at this meeting, but he sent an e-mail to all members of the Board on April 2015. He requested "that the Regional budget be amended to increase the "Hospitality-Hotel and Catering" budget from \$8000 to \$10,000. Last year \$2000 of our required spending for the hotel catering was met by the spending of \$2000 for the District 17/Unit 361 Friday evening reception. We will not be hosting the D17 Board meeting this year, but are required by our contract with the hotel to spend a minimum amount on hotel catering. We failed to take this into account in preparing the budget for the 2015 Regional. With the proposed revision, this will still project a profit of around \$11,000.

We have held a couple of meetings with the hotel personnel, and I plan to have a meeting with the hotel representative and members of the tournament committee soon after I get back to Denver. I am aiming to have that meeting on April 24 to finalized arrangements with the hotel."

Jeanne Achziger reported that new hospitality plans for the Regional are: an ice cream social one day and brownies and cookies another day. \$2 coupons will be passed out by the caddies to players. These can be used to purchase drinks; and a \$5 coupon will be provided for food during the Monday Swiss teams. Jeanne Achziger and Chuck Goudey are also comprising a list of restaurant in the Northfield area and coupons from many restaurants and this list will be included in the registration packet. Margaret Devere is looking into restaurants in other areas as well.

Jim Calhoun will need WI-Fi to be available. A motion was made and passed to hire Elyse Zeiger, if available, to be Head Caddy for the Regional.

Jim Calhoun posed the question as to whether dupli-swiss was going to be used at the Regional and the answer was no.

Margaret Devere knows a group of cheerleaders from Broomfield who could be a possible caddy pool for our tournaments, if needed.

MARCH SECTIONAL UP-DATE

Al Kane reported that the Friday night pairs only had 9 tables. He feels that the Unit needs to make changes in order to improve the attendance. Margaret Devere suggested that a mentor group with mentees be created for the Friday night game. The motion was made and passed unanimously.

Bridge results were not available at this tournament. Some complaints were made by members about this. Joan Kushner asked Al Kane if he would ask Bill Michael, as per our director contractual agreement, that all of the assistant directors be trained to input final bridge results onto Bridge Results

site. A motion was also passed to no longer have a Thursday night dupli-swiss at our sectionals. As it happens, a BAM event is scheduled for the July Sectional on Thursday night. The cost is less when the dupli-swiss is eliminated.

Suggestions were made to make the dupli=swiss movement more user- friendly by placing the tables in each quad in a square so that the event will run more smoothly for players and directors without errors.

Margaret Devere had sent out the survey results by e-mail to all Board members. The results were:

81-“please continue”, 31-“continue if you can work out the glitches”, 19- “don’t like it, don’t do it”, 5- “other.

People who sent e-mails: 5 like it, 4 don’t.

COMMITTEE UP-DATES

Mentor Program

Shirley Heinsohn provided the Board members with a brochure about the Mentor/Mentee program which begins June 1, 2015. The Unit agreed to fund the program with \$2,000 ,as requested, to pay for mentors’ game fees, as needed. She also reported that she had only received 3 responses from the security letter re:” publishing in the directory”. Office Max gives our Unit a special price for our copying needs. The reference number for Office Max for special copying needs is 8888-0001-0583-8816-95.

D17 REPORTS

Flo Newlin and Jerry Ranney were absent, however, Flo Newlin e-mailed the “Caddy Guidelines for D17 Sponsored Regionals and Events”; and Jerry Ranney sent a D17 report in an e-mail to all Board members. The report stated the following:

At the Tucson meeting, John Grossman(Colorado at Large) was elected as District 17 President, Art McHaffie (New Mexico at large) as Vice-President, Bonnie Bagley (National Board Director from Colorado Springs) as Secretary, Jerry Ranney as Treasurer, and Flo Newlin as Elections Secretary. So Colorado is very well represented on the District 17 Board. The Phoenix Regional in October of 2013 was a major disappointment and suffered a large loss. As a result on the poor attendance at the Mesa Convention Center site, the Phoenix Unit cancelled their contract with Mesa and the hotel, and have cancelled their October, 2015 Regional. An attempt was made to see if Tucson could fill that date, but they were unable to find a suitable site on the scheduled week, and conflicts prevented moving the Regional to a different place that might have worked for Tucson. Thus the third District 17 Board meeting is now planned to be held at the Taos Regional in September.

There is considerable concern with the drop off in Regional attendance in the past year or so. Only the Denver and Colorado Springs Regionals had expected table counts, and all the other D17 Regionals suffered significant short-falls. The Board is trying to come up with ideas to address this problem. Hopefully, Denver will meet expectations again this year.”

Al Kane made a motion to replace 2 boxes and stanchions. The motion was passed unanimously and Jim Calhoun will be responsible for accomplishing these tasks.

No further discussion. The meeting was adjourned.

Action List

1. Al Kane to ask Bill Michael to train assistant directors to input bridge results on Bridge Results site. (Before next Sectional)
2. Al Kane to work with directors on arrangement for dupli-swiss and to cancel the dupkli-swiss scheduled for the Thursday night event at the Sectionals.(Before Sectionals)
3. Marilyn Ballon to arrange for a caddy for I/N tournament. (ASAP)
4. Margaret Devere to arrange committee for Mentor/Mentee event Friday night at Sectional. (Before next Sectional)
5. Jeanne Achziger, Chuck Goudey, and Margaret Devere to review restaurants and comprise a list of these restaurants for the Regional in May. (Before registration packets are to be put together)
6. Marilyn Ballon will secure Elyse Ziger as Head Caddy for Regional if possible. (ASAP)
7. Jim Calhoun to replace the boxes and stanchions. (ASAP)

The next board meeting will be held on May 9, 2015 at the Denver Metro Bridge Club at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted, in absentia (Thanks to Marilyn Ballon for taking minutes and all Board Members for their input)

Bonnie Smith