

Subject: Minutes of Unit 361/ACBL Board Meeting  
Date: Monday, July 6, 2015  
Time: 4:30pm  
Location: House of Cards Bridge Club  
In Attendance: Board Members: Joan Kushner, Jeanne Achziger, Marilyn Ballon,  
Jim Calhoun, Phil Debus, Margaret Devere, Pat Henke,  
Shirley Heinsohn, Al Kane, Bonnie Smith  
D17 Representatives: Flo Newlin, Jerry Ranney  
Acting Caddymaster: Nancy rassbach  
Absent: Legal Council: Forest Clark

The meeting was called to order by President, Joan Kushner

#### APPROVAL OF JUNE 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes unanimously.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Phil Debus reported that the treasury still is holding the \$10,000 for the upcoming National tournament. It will be submitted to the ACBL when requested by them. Phil requested that an item for future consideration be a change in the budgeting process from the fiscal year to the calendar year.

#### UPCOMING SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORT

##### Caddies

Nancy Rassbach reported that that all Sectional events are covered in the following ways. :

2 for the Thursday night event; 2 for the Friday morning and Friday afternoon events; 1 for the Friday evening event; 2 for Saturday; 4 for the Sunday team game. Nancy will not be present for the Thursday night game, but Margaret Devere will be there to welcome the caddies and Fatima, the head caddy, will also be present. Shirley Miller has the caddy aprons and will bring them in. Flo Newlin will provide Nancy with the ACBL policy relating to the caddies.

##### Hospitality

Jeanne Achziger reported that hospitality plans are complete. Jerry Ranney will bring in the ice on Thursday evening and the John Morenos will take care of it after that.

### Partnerships

Shirley Heinsohn reported that she is all set for the tournament.

### COMMITTEE REPORT RE FUTURE FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES AT SECTIONALS

Margaret Devere reported that the flyers for the November Sectional are not printed yet as she is working on the setup for new event for the Friday night game.

The committee consisting of herself, Pat Henke, Jim Calhoun and Bonnie Smith met and have planned a "Non-Life Master/Life Master game for Friday evening at the Sectional in November. This will be designated as a "special game" and a charity game. Jim Calhoun will be responsible for setting it up and will communicate with the Director. The points given out will be silver but will be accorded on a Regional scale. The Life Masters will pay only half the normal entry fee. The Non-Life Masters will pay the full fee and, after pre-registering and sending the registration form to Bonnie Smith, they will be matched with a Life Master by Bonnie Smith. The Non-Life Masters will be contacted by Pat Henke and through club owner and bridge teacher announcements. Flyers will be available at the July Sectional and will be distributed by mail and to the local clubs by Margaret and Pat. Margaret will make flyers and announcements on the Unit web-site, ACBL web-site, and with e-mail contact. All may play and any partnership is welcome to play. The Mentor program can be applied to the partnerships if the partnership is one of a Non-life master and a Life Master. Shirley Heinsohn will make copies of the pre-registration form for the Mentor/Mentees in the program.

Margaret Devere handed out a schedule of assignments to the committee and to Board members.

This is an experiment and, if successful, will likely be repeated but, if not, another type of event may be tried to improve the Friday night attendance.

### ACTION LIST REVIEW

Joan Kushner reviewed the action list as follows:

1. Jerry Ranney had talked with Gary Zeiger and the amount allotted for the Regional charity event was \$10.25 per table. The Rise School of Denver received a check for \$600.00 from Unit 361. The District and Western Conference sanctions are waived for this event.
2. Al Kane reported that if the Unit wants to have new playing cards then Dan Williams needs to be consulted as he is responsible for this.
3. Al Kane has 400 new pass cards for the bidding boxes. The replacement of these cards could be done by the caddies. Joan Kushner, Phil Debus and Shirley Heinsohn will be at the Sectional on Thursday by 3:30pm to assist with the setup. An adequate supply of pencils is available for the tournament players.

4. Margaret Devere reported that the web-site is ready for the Sectional. "Bridge Results" is set up and Bill Michael will handle the input. The website also has included some playing hands from Don Heitler. Margaret Devere will put up reports from the National Tournament Committee.
5. Margaret Devere selected her nominating committee and She and her committee will prepare a suggested slate for vacant Board positions. Her committee will consist of herself, Phil Debus, Paul Ossip, Nancy Rainwater, Georgiana Butler, Ruth Pana, and possibly Bonnie Smith. The candidates need to be determined by September 2015 so their biographies can be published in Table Talk and the elections can be held at the November Sectional. Margaret Devere will check with Joan Kushner on the publication date of Table Talk.
6. Jim Calhoun will prepare a proposal for Bidge camp and present it to the Board 2-3 months before the bridge camp would occur. This may be presented in 2016.
7. As explained in a previous section, Margaret Devere, with her committee will continue to set up a new game for the Friday night Sectional tournament.
8. When the Regional committee meets, the committee Chairs will address any problems encountered with serving food, caddie distribution at various events, distribution of coupons to players, extra table purchase, Pro/Am timely attendance, posters for charity events, scheduling of different events at the Regional with clear names, category designations. The Gold Rush pairs will be clarified to avoid confusion among players and a committee will be set up to work on this.

#### **VOLUNTEERS FOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

Joan Kushner is the National Tournament Chair in charge of getting volunteers to work at the National Tournament in November. A request for volunteers will be placed on the Unit web-site. Players' ACBL number and contact information will be requested. Approximately a total of 200 volunteers will be required to assist at the tournament over the 10 days. They will work at the registration desk, partnership desk, hospitality desk and I/N registration, etc. They will be asked to be present at their specific assignments for 45 minutes before an event.

#### **NEW MEMBERSHIP PACKET**

Shirley Heinsohn reported that Pat Henke sent out a packet containing the following information to 19 new members. Included in the packet was the following information and forms:

A welcome letter with club information, a security letter, a contact information and release letter, 52 bridge facts, a free play ticket, a copy of Table Talk and a stamped/addressed envelope.

The cost of sending out this information was \$1.61 and .25 for the postage. Only 4 responses were received. After discussion, the Board agreed that the packet may be too large and may be ignored by

many people, so it was decided to send out only the welcoming letter and the contact information release letter at this time. The Unit wishes to encourage new members to respond so that they can be listed in the Bridge Directory. According to the ACBL Privacy Policy, written consent is now required for contact information to be published. If these players do not respond, they will not be included in an updated publication of the Directory. If any members have asked the Unit and/or ACBL not to publish contact information, the information will not be published without a written consent form.

### FLOWERS

Shirley Heinsohn reported that the cost for having flowers on the registration desk was \$20.00. Unfortunately, many people have reported that they have not noticed them. The Board decided to not have flowers at the Sectionals but to continue at the Regional tournament. The vote was not unanimous.

### GOOD WILL AMBASSADORS

Joan Kushner reported that the Unit's good will ambassadors are Cal Newlin and Shelbie Bastiaans. Congratulations were extended to them from the Board. Flo Newlin will bring the pins to the Sectional Friday tournament and Joan Kushner will present them to Cal and Shelbie at the July Sectional.

### SECTIONAL SUPPLIES

Jim Calhoun reported that everything was in order for the July Sectional. The stanchions will be there. Apparently, at the Regional, the stanchions for Sections "M" and "N" were not present. Pat Henke inquired whether the results could be posted at a lower position. Jim Calhoun said there may be some physical danger to players if the stanchions are lowered. Al Kane will check with Bill Michael about this. Margaret Devere made a suggestion to have 2 copies of results made, one being posted on the stanchion and one on the wall, however, Jerry Ranney said that the Jefferson County Fairgrounds does not allow all the walls to have taped postings on them. A solution to this problem was not made at this time.

### TABLE COUNT REVIEW FROM TOURNAMENTS.

Joan Kushner requested a table count from all tournaments as D17 requires a recording of specific table counts. Jim Calhoun reported that the table counts from past tournaments was as follows: The July 2014 Sectional was 513.5 tables; the November 2014 count was 538 tables; January 2015 was 468; March 2015 was 500.5 The Regional in 2014 was 2091; the Regional in 2015 was 2161.5.

### D17 BUSINESS

Jerry Ranney reported that the 2016 Unit 361 Regional budget was reviewed by the D17 Board and was approved. The profit from the 2015 Unit 361 Regional was \$6,988. Sanction fees may be adjusted as many units are having difficulties showing profits. The 2015 Unit 361 Regional schedule was also

approved. It is very similar to the schedule followed in 2015. To help clarify the “Gold Rush Pairs” , they will be scheduled in “gold” .

Margaret Devere inquired about one of the small 2 –session Regional event that occurred at the 2015 Regional. Jerry Ranney had spoken with Gary Zeiger, the Head Director, and he did not feel it was possible to combine other events with this in order to make it a larger event. Some Units have actually dropped some events but The Denver/unit361 Regional does not plan to drop any events at this time.

Jerry Ranney also reported that he is up for re-election to the D17 Board and he plans to run for this again. All the Unit 361 Board members were delighted to hear that he is running for office again.

Phil Debus requested an overview of the District 17 finances. Jerry Ranney reported that the finances are in reasonable shape although the District took a big loss last year due to decreased attendance and having to give the Las Vegas and Albuquerque Units guaranteed amounts to compensate for changing the date of their Regionals. The Phoenix Regional has been cancelled this year and also several of D17 Units showed a decrease in income but Unit 361 has been able to break even.

Flo Newlin reported that the newly appointed Unit 361’s Good Will Ambassadors are Shelbie Bastianns and Cal Newlin. All Board members extended their congratulations to both of them. Flo Newlin is in charge of the upcoming D17 elections. She reported that all seven incumbents are planning on sitting for the election but the election is open to all members. If anyone wishes to place their name on the list for consideration, they may do so. The D17 Bylaws regarding the policy on elections in on the D17 web-site and can be consulted. At the moment all terms are two years but this policy be changed and increased to three years. The D17 web-site is operated by the D17 President, John Grossman. Burke Snowden has be hired to assist with the web-site. D17 is considering new sites for Regional tournaments.

Flo Newlin also reported that there were five tables of junior WBF players at the Las Vegas Regional. They were being mentored by special bridge experts/coaches. Sets of pre-duplicated boards were used in the competition when playing against these young players to enable the follow-up coaching sessions. The coaches donated their time and funds in order for this all to occur. Some of the coaches involved were Kit Woosley, Debbie and Michael Rosenberg.

Flo Newlin also reported that some of the convention card rules may be changed for I/N players when playing in an I/N event. The I/N players may be allowed to consult their convention card during the auction and play of the hand.

Flo Newlin also talked with the ACBL President, Suzi Subeck, who is working on many ways to increase membership in the ACBL. Jim Calhoun requested information regarding all Junior tournaments and especially the events scheduled at the National tournament in Chicago this August. He would like to present this information to the group of High School students that he mentors. Flo will send him the contact information and also suggested that he go on-lint to the ACBL/ NABC web-site to get more data.

## **BUDGET CONCERNS**

Al Kane voiced a concern that Unit 361 is losing money on all its Sectionals but that the Regional budget covers these losses and that this fact is not specifically expressed in the budget. Phil Debus responded that this is a reasonable concern but that the Unit has an overall budget. Some of the tournaments

reflect a profit, some a loss and that the accurate reporting method is to show the overall result. The general overall result is that the Unit tends to break even each year. Our Sectional tournaments lose money because the Unit provides excellent hospitality/food which increase costs considerably. Many other Units do not provide food for their players in the same manner as our Unit. The treasury is in good condition and appears fairly stable.

### ACTION List

1. Joan Kushner to include an item on the agenda to discuss changing the budgeting process to fall in line with the calendar year rather than the fiscal year. ( Next Board meeting)
2. Nancy Rassbach to attain a list reflecting the number of caddies required for each Sectional and Regional tournament in order to facilitate her ability to provide the necessary number of caddies for each event. ( Before next Sectional tournament)
3. Flo Newlin to give the ACBL policy regarding caddies to Nancy Rassbach ( Before next Sectional)
4. Margaret Devere will print flyers for the upcoming "Special Event" planned for the Friday night game at our Sectionals,( Before July Sectional)
5. Margaret Devere, and her appointed committee to meet after this Sectional to continue plans for the Friday night game at upcoming Sectionals. All committee members will continue to work on the set-up for this event and report to their progress to the Board. ( Ongoing- to next Sectional).
6. Margaret Devere, and her committee, to meet to prepare a slate of candidates for the Unit Board. ( Before the printing of Table Talk and before the November Sectional)
7. Shirley Heinsohn ro make copies of the Flyers for the new " Special Event", as described above, for distribution to all the Mentees in the program. ( As able)
8. Shirley Heinsohn and/ or Pat Henke will send out the welcoming form and contact/information sheet to new members. (As needed)
9. Al Kane to consult the Directors at the July Sectional regarding the height of results placed on the stanchions. (July Sectional)
10. Jim Calhoun to check the ACBL/NABC web-site regarding upcoming Junior tournaments and will give an overview to the Board. (at next Board meeting , if possible)
11. Flo Newlin to provide Jim Calhoun with the contact information regarding events for Junior players.
12. Jim Calhoun to prepare a proposal re Bridge Camp. ( 2016)

There was no more discussion at this time. The next meeting will be at the House of Cards on Saturday, August 1, 2015, at 10:30 am. The time of meetings may be changed by the President, Joan Kushner to reflect the Board's needs for discussion.

Meeting adjourned

Bonnie Smith

