

Subject: Minutes of Unit 361/ACBL Board Meeting
Date: Saturday, September 5, 2015
Time: 10:00am
Location: House of Cards Bridge Club
In Attendance: Board Members: Joan Kushner, Jeanne Achziger,
Marilyn Ballon, Jim Calhoun, Phil Debus, Margaret Devere,
Al Kane, Bonnie Smith

D17 Representatives: Flo Newlin, Jerry Ranney
Legal Council: Forest Clark
Absent: Board Members: Shirley Heinsohn, Pat Henke

The meeting was called to order by President, Joan Kushner

APPROVAL OF AUGUST/2015 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made and the minutes were approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL/TREASURER'S REPORT, August 2015

Phil Debus reported that the Unit has lost \$6,270 to date. The loss is mainly due to Sectional costs while The Denver Regional made money. The big loss that the Unit incurred is mainly from the Thursday night Sectional event. Our total "Liabilities & Equity" is \$87,776.31. The Thursday night event will be discussed later in this meeting.

The \$10,000 being held for the upcoming Denver National tournament was sent to the ACBL National Committee.

A motion was made and the Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

REGIONAL FLYER

Margaret Devere reported that the Regional flyers were approved by Jerry Ranney and the D17 District Board. They are ready to be printed. The affect will feature 4 color plates and they will be printed on slick paper. Jerry suggested printing less since many were left over last year, so Margaret will have 500 less printed this year. The flyers will be needed for distribution by September, before the Taos Regional. Jerry will take some of them to the Regional and will give some to Gary Zeiger, the Head Director for distribution at other tournaments.

WEB-SITE UP-DATES

Margaret Devere reported that the web-site has new information posted on it. Winners of the I/N and November Sectional will be listed on the site. The Front Range Challenge will not be listed since it is being hosted by Colorado Springs this year. Colorado Springs apparently does not use the link "Bridge Results". Al Kane suggested that we put on a link on our web-site to the Colorado Springs web-site so the results can be accessed.

Joan Kushner inquired about the future of the web-site. Margaret said that the current decisions about the revision of the yearly publication "Table Talk" might affect the web-site. For example, members who keep a scrapbook of their achievements will no longer have a hard copy to collect; an archive may be needed on the web-site so that there will be a documentation of the past and future winners of special events such as the "Lou Neff Trophy", the I/N tournaments, the "Victory Trophy", and the "Front Range Challenge".

Margaret places the web-site requirements in three categories:

- a) Collecting the information to be uploaded.
- b) Editing the information.
- c) Uploading the information.

Uploading is fairly mechanical, but the first two categories are more involved and should not be the responsibility of the web-site person. Also, if the archive is to be added to the web-site, this is even more time consuming.

TABLE TALK

Joan Kushner reported that templates have been made for Table Talk. Margaret Devere will be able to post the PDF file on the web-site. Joan plans to put the relevant information either in a flyer or memo that will be sent to all members. Included in this flyer or postcard will be a letter encouraging members to go on-line to the web-site "Denverbridge.com" in order to access detailed information. Also, the letter will define exactly what information is in the PDF and what is on the web-site and what is not now included in "Table Talk". When this is completed, Joan will send the finished letter to all Board members for their input.

Margaret is concerned about archival information that may be lost if not now documented in "Table Talk". Bonnie Smith suggested setting up a committee to handle the gathering of accurate archival information and having that committee then submit this information to the Board member in charge of the web-site. A motion was made and passed unanimously to have this committee. Joan appointed Margaret as head of the committee. Margaret will choose members for this committee. The committee will be responsible for selecting the categories to be used in the Archives and for gathering all relevant, accurate archival information. Margaret will add "Archives" to the web-site and post the accurate information gathered. This will be an ongoing job and one that will be continued by the Board member responsible for the web-site. Archival information will not be posted in "Table Talk". Some categories in the archives would be "Lou Neff Trophy Winners", top 500 masterpoint holders, I/N tournament

winners, Front Range Challenge winners and any other significant recordable achievements from all past years.

Phil Debus's treasurer's report will be posted in "Table Talk". Joan Kushner has the template for the recording of the information and will put this information in "Table Talk".

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Phil Debus discussed the report regarding the costs of the Thursday night team event at the Jefferson County fairgrounds at the last Sectional. The cost of holding this team event was \$900.

Margaret Devere expressed her desire to keep an event on that evening. The Board discussed what kind of event could be considered such as a BAM, Mixed Pairs, Individual or a Team Event without pre-duplicated boards. Flo Newlin recounted that, in the past, the Mixed Pairs was a well-attended event and provided an event that working people could attend.

After a discussion, a motion was made and passed unanimously to change the Thursday night event at the 2016 Sectionals to a Mixed Pairs. Jerry Ranney reminded the Board that the schedule for the new event had to be registered with the ACBL. This will be an experiment and the event may be changed again if it does not prove to be successful. Margaret Devere, who is in charge of publicity, will consider ways to publicize this new event. Jim Calhoun volunteered to make posters to publicize this event. These can be put up at our upcoming November Sectional and distributed to all the bridge clubs in our Unit.

Phil Debus proposed that the Board consider raising fees from \$10/session to \$11/session. The raise in fees would help offset the losses that the Unit has been incurring at the Sectionals and would allow the Unit to continue with the excellent hospitality that has been provided to the members. The increase would also help cover the ongoing increase of costs to the Unit from Director fees, etc. Phil reviewed his findings about using a different caterer. Marilyn Ballon also had researched this and all other caterers that qualified were much more expensive than the caterer that we are now employing. Jeanne Achziger, the Head of Hospitality, stated that she has enjoyed working with our present caterer, John Morenos and felt that he was doing what he could to improve the food served and the quantities provided. John Morenos charges \$3/person for the food he serves. Food costs have increased 50% more than anticipated. Discussion was held about possibly having someone serve the food but the cost of providing someone to do this was prohibitive.

The suggestion was posed to discontinue serving lunch on Friday and Saturday but the Board concluded that members come to the tournament expecting lunch to be served on Friday and Saturday and that stopping the provision of lunch would not be an improvement to the enjoyment of the event.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of giving each registered member a coupon for lunch but the conclusion was that all attendees would be served lunch regardless of whether they had played an earlier event or not and that the Unit would do its best to see that enough provisions were available. This cost of providing enjoyable lunches is one of the reasons for the consideration of a fee increase.

Phil Debus also added the fact that although food costs and director costs are increasing, the rent, for the time being, is not going up. He had investigated a facility in Douglas County as an alternative but

Jefferson County Fairgrounds still meets the needs of this Unit better than any other facility available. Margaret Devere suggested that a survey regarding whether players would like to stop lunch or increase fees be prepared so that the membership could vote and decide the matter. The Board decided that a survey was not needed at this time.

Margaret also reflected on whether the Unit needed to have a balance of \$87,000 in the bank. Phil Debus reported that the Unit was losing a considerable amount of money from each Sectional tournament and that the usual "cushion" for an organization was one third of the year's expenses. A balance of \$35,000 would probably be adequate. Discussion was held regarding ways to use the excess to improve bridge attendance. Flo Newlin suggested that the Unit consider ways to help bridge grow in our community and she mentioned the program "Learn Bridge in a Day". Jim Calhoun also will be using some funds for the Bridge Camp scheduled for July, 2016. Jim Calhoun is working on the proposal and will submit it to the Board for review when he has received all the pertinent information and then can prepare the proposal itself. Margaret Devere will be in charge of appointing a committee to explore the ways in which the bank balance excess could be used to promote bridge in our Unit.

After discussion, a motion was made to increase fees to \$11/session in 2016. The motion was passed with one abstention. The increase of fees and the reasons for it, will be posted on the web-site and put in any new flyers and mentioned in "Table Talk" so all members will be informed of the decision and the reasons for the raise.

FRONT RANGE CHALLENGE

Al Kane reported on the Front Range Challenge. All the "A" teams have been set up. The "299's" teams are not yet completed. There are two team events scheduled, one at 10:00am and one at 2:00pm. No pair event will take place as it was too difficult to arrange for a fair distribution of pairs since the Colorado Springs Unit is considerably smaller than the Denver Unit. 16 teams will represent the Denver Unit, 4 in each bracket. Lunch and snacks will be served. The cost for each team will be \$64/ team. A suggestion was made for the Unit to pay for some of the teams but the Board decided that this was not an appropriate way to use the excess in the treasury. The brackets are set up with the following criteria:

A: 2500 and up; B: 1000 -2500; C: 300- 100; D: 0 – 300. The sub-bracket (Ax) was not addressed. Ax players will play in Bracket "A".

The conditions of contest have already been set up. They could be changed for the next year when Denver hosts the Challenge. One suggestion was to include Boulder in the Challenge as well as Colorado Springs. Joan Kushner will possibly discuss the change of conditions with the Colorado Springs Unit next year after the Board reviews the suggestions in more depth.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Margaret Devere, the Chair of the nominating committee, reviewed the by-laws that were followed by the nominating committee. The committee is asked to prepare a slate of 5 candidates for inclusion on

the Unit Board. Marilyn Ballon, Pat Henke, and Bonnie Smith, current Board members, will not be running for a second term. The committee met over a period of 3.5 weeks and selected the following candidates: Incumbent: Jeanne Achziger; incumbent: Jim Calhoun and 3 nominees: Nancy Rassbach, Richard Gardner and Tom West. All the candidates have submitted a photograph and a short write-up that will be included in Table Talk and posted on the web-site. The members who were not selected were informed of their right to submit a petition having the signatures of 10 members of the Unit and/or they or anyone else may be nominated from the floor when the slate is announced at the November Sectional. If other candidates are nominated in these ways, ballots will be issued to all attending members at the Sectional and a vote will be taken. Margaret Devere will be responsible for creating the ballot and seeing that the ballots are distributed at the Sectional, if needed. Members of the Unit will be able to vote up to the dinner break on Sunday at the Sectional. Margaret Devere will tally the votes and announce the slate at the Sectional before the end of the Sunday session. The results will then be posted on the web-site and in "Table Talk". Jerry Ranney pointed out that the ballot box must be manned and that votes should have the players ACBL recorded on the ballot. A list of all members will be needed in order to check off the voting members' names. A bridge directory will be used to check off the names of voting members. A caddy may be enlisted to assist with the ballot box and the check-list. Any member can vote as long as the member is present at the Sectional, however, the member need not be playing in any event.

LEARN BRIDGE IN A DAY

Jim Calhoun reported that this event gives attendees a synopsis of bridge. After the event was successfully hosted by the Castle Rock Bridge Club, 5 licenses were issued to Colorado. Castle Rock, Greeley, Loveland and Fort Collins each have taken one of these licenses. One license is left. After discussion, a motion was made and passed unanimously, to take the license. Jim Calhoun will research and present the Board with the details of what is required to host this event and what costs might be anticipated in order to present this program. The license is free but all other arrangements will be the responsibility of the Unit. Phil Debus suggested that one possibility might be to hold this event on the Thursday afternoon of one of the Denver Sectionals as the site has already been rented and then cost for using the space would already be covered. After the information is received, the Board will then decide how to proceed with presenting this program.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ELECTION

Joan Kushner reminded all Board members that the voting for the Board of Governors representing D17 will be closed September 15, 2015. Members are to vote electronically and can follow the directions in the e-mail that has been sent to them from the ACBL.

FRIDAY NIGHT SECTIONAL EVENING PROJECT

Margaret Devere reported that all the flyers are out and the information about the event is posted on the web-site. She also reported on behalf of Pat Henke that Pat is halfway through the calls to the non-life masters. Jim Calhoun has talked to some of the bridge teachers and one teacher, Sandy Koller said she would tell her students about the event. Jim has also been in contact with Bill Michael, the head Director about the event and will keep him informed. The masterpoints issued to players will be silver but will be rewarded on a higher scale since this is a "special" event. Bonnie Smith reported that she had received 7 registrations from non-life masters and that all the non-life masters either had partners or one was found for them. All the non-life masters and the specified life-masters have been contacted by Bonnie Smith and will be contacted again one week before the event.

A request was made for names of any life master members who would be willing to play with a non-life master in the event. Flo Newlin announced that she and Cal Newlin are playing in the event with their mentees. Jerry Ranney volunteered to play if needed.

OCTOBER I/N TOURNAMENT STATUS

Margaret Devere reported the I/N information on behalf of Pat Henke. Burke Snowden will be the Director. Chuck Goudey will give the bridge lecture on Saturday. Pat Henke may need a substitute as she may be on jury duty. There are problems with the catering of this event. The caterer who has done this in the past was already committed to another event. Pat Henke would like suggestions from the Board. A list of acceptable caterers is available but all these caterers are very expensive. After discussion, the Board suggested that Pat Henke consult Anita Heitler. Anita had arranged for a dinner for the National committee (attended by Joan Kushner and Bonnie Smith) of pizza, spaghetti, salad, bread with cookies for dessert; this dinner was quite acceptable and could be a possibility for the event.

D17 BUSINESS

Flo Newlin reported that the D17 Board Representative nominations close September 30, 2015, with voting by November 30, 2015 if there is more than one candidate running for the position against the incumbent. There are seven positions open every year for a two year term. This year all seven incumbents are running for re-election. If there is only one candidate for the seven positions, that candidate is automatically elected for the next two years.

Flo also pointed out that our flyers needed to be corrected regarding the age of the junior players participating. The correct age limit was 25 years and under. Players 26 years of age would not qualify in this category.

ACTION LIST

1. Margaret Devere will have the Regional flyers printed. The number of flyers printed will be decreased by 500. The age limit of junior players will be "25 or under" (on all flyers where appropriate.) Margaret will give flyers to Jerry Ranney for distribution at Taos Regional. (One week before Taos Regional)
2. Jerry Ranney will take the Regional flyers to the Taos Regional and give flyers to the head Director Gary Zeiger.
3. Margaret Devere will add a link on the Unit web-site to the Colorado Springs web-site so that the results from the Front Range Challenge can be accessed. (Before Front Range Challenge)
4. Margaret Devere will appoint a committee to address the adding of accurate archival information to the web-site for permanent access and historical recording of achievements of Unit members. (As able)
5. Joan Kushner will prepare template for PDF file and give information to Margaret Devere to post on the web-site. (Before the publication of "Table Talk")
6. Joan Kushner will compose a letter explaining the contents of the PDF to all Unit members. The letter will be included in "Table Talk" and will be posted on the web-site. The letter will include information that will not be put in "Table Talk". (Before publication of "Table Talk")
7. Phi Debus will review the anticipated budget for next year and report to the Board regarding the proper "cushion" needed in the treasury to cover all costs. (Before next budget meeting)
8. Jim Calhoun will continue research and write a proposal for the "Bridge Camp" program to be offered next July. The proposal will be presented to the Board for review and consideration. (Before May 2016).
9. Jim Calhoun will accept the license for the program "Learn Bridge in a Day" and will continue to research the needed conditions to offer this program and report the information to the Board (before next Board meeting)
10. Margaret Devere will appoint a committee that will address the best use of any excess funds in the treasury. The committee will focus on ways to improve the bridge experience and ways to improve the growth of bridge in our community.
11. Al Kane will inform the ACBL of the new game scheduled for Thursday evening at our Sectional in 2016: The Mixed Pairs. (Before mid- October so Margaret Devere can post the new sanction number and the information in the flyer)
12. Jim Calhoun will make posters publicizing this new game "Mixed Pairs" as mentioned above. (Before November Sectional, 2015). The poster will be ready for the November tournament Jim will distribute the posters to the bridge clubs in our Unit. (Before November Sectional, 2015)
13. Al Kane will finish selecting teams for Front Range Challenge in 299's bracket. (Before FRC)
14. Joan Kushner will consult Colorado Springs regarding changing some of the conditions of contest. The addition of the Boulder Unit will be one of the considerations. (As able)

15. Margaret Devere will be responsible for creating a ballot, assigning someone to monitor the ballot box during voting and to check off the voters as they vote, and counting the ballots if any additions are made to the election slate at the November tournament. (at the November Sectiona)
16. All board members should be aware that voting for the Board of Governors is to be done electronically and must be done by September 30, 2015.
17. The committee for the" new Friday night game" will continue to call non-life masters, set up partnerships as needed and liaison with Bill Michael. (Margaret Devere, Jim Calhoun, Pat Henke, Bonnie Smith) (Before November Sectional)
18. Margaret Devere will give Pat Henke the Board's suggestion for food catering for th I/N tournament.
19. Joan Kushner will appoint a substitute for Pat Henke, if need, for the overseeing of the I/N tournament

The next meeting will be held at the House of Cards on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at 10:30 am.

Respectively Submitted

Bonnie Smith

