

Subject: Minutes of Unit 361/ACBL Board Meeting
Date: Monday, October 5, 2015
Time: 4:30pm
Location: House of Cards Bridge Club
In Attendance: Board Members: Joan Kushner, Jeanne Achziger, Jim Calhoun,
Phil Debus, Margaret Devere, Shirley Heinsohn, Pat Henke, Al Kane,
Bonnie Smith
D17 Representatives: Flo Newlin, Jerry Ranney
Legal Council: Forest Clark
Absent: Board Member: Marilyn Ballon

The meeting was called to order by President, Joan Kushner

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

After a motion was made and seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Phil Debus gave all members a copy of the financial activity from January to August, 2015. The Unit has incurred a loss of \$8,515 to date. Don Heitler, a Unit member and previous Treasurer for the Unit, sent Phil a letter expressing his concern over the amount of the loss and he requested data comparing this year's financial records with last year's records. Phil sent him the information he requested but has not heard from Don Heitler as yet. Phil explained that the loss is greater this year because our costs are considerably higher: The Jefferson County Fairgrounds increased their rent; the cost of providing lunch, cookies, candy, soda, coffee, and snacks has also increased (\$3.00/ player); the Unit has spent more on bridge education and the Mentor programs; and the Unit has also purchased trophies to award Members for their wins and special achievements. The increase in fees will help to decrease the loss by approximately \$2000/ tournament. This estimate is based on the average Sectional total table count of 500 (\$1.00/2000 members attending). Members should be informed that all financial records are posted on line on the Unit web-site. Phil summarized by saying that our Unit has tried to use the available funds to enhance the bridge experience of all players and is trying to do all it can to increase the membership and keep our bridge population thriving.

Discussion was then held regarding the recommended "cushion" that the Unit should maintain in the treasury. Phil Debus said that the recommended reserve for a non-profit is three months of the yearly expenditures. This is recommended by the AICPA (American Institute for Certified Public Accountants)

and the Colorado Association of non-profit organizations. Jerry Ranney pointed out that some Districts have had great losses in the recent past, for example, Las Vegas, who coincidentally had a loss of \$51,000 this year. After discussion, the Board felt that having the current balance was a wise choice so that unforeseen problems and catastrophic loss could be handled without jeopardizing the existence of the Unit. This balance allows for the continuation of programs such as the mentoring of newer players, the educating of youth players, the LBIAD program, and the provision of the best available and affordable hospitality at our tournaments to all attending members and for any other programs that may be planned in the future to improve the bridge community.

TABLE TALK

Joan Kushner discussed the changes in the publication "Table Talk" that was sent to all members. She explained that the full version of "Table Talk" was also posted on our web-site. Joan had a template made for the flyer at her own expense and she is donating it to the Unit for future use. The savings to the Unit for the briefer version of "Table Talk" was approximately \$5600. Concern was expressed that the publication sent to the Members did not contain enough financial information such as a summarized balance sheet. Recommendations were made to include that next time. Members are encouraged to check the web-site for the full version which does contain all the financial information. This recommendation to check the website for more financial and other pertinent information was mentioned in the publicized version of "Table Talk". Margaret Devere mentioned that other units report their yearly information on-line as well.

On behalf of the Board, Margaret Devere thanked Joan for all her work in creating the published version and the online version of the publication.

I/N TOURNAMENT UP-DATE

Pat Henke reported that the caterer for the tournament will be "Piccolo's". The cost is \$765.60. This cost provides food for 50 people on Sunday. Raisin bread will also be served. Chuck Henke will be giving the lecture and Burke Snowden is directing. The tournament is being held on Oct 10, and 11, 2015 at the House of Cards.

Al Kane reported that he could not locate the boards at Cowboy Storage. Four sets of 36 boards each are needed. He and Jerry Ranney will check again and if they cannot be found, Pat Henke and Joan Kushner will be contacted and other arrangements will be made to provide the boards. Jeanne Achziger will bring hospitality supplies.

The financial records will be sent to Jim Calhoun, Phil Debus and Joan Kushner.

Joan Kushner plans to come to tournament to welcome all the attendees and to offer assistance if needed.

FRONT RANGE CHALLENGE

Al Kane reported that all the A, B, and C teams have been selected and are committed to play in the event, however, there still remains one D team that is not settled. The Board suggested giving a deadline to the member who has not yet committed to the tournament so that all the teams can be set up in a timely fashion to insure a match for the Colorado Springs' team. "Contingency pairs" may be needed in case of cancellations.

COMMITTEE UP-DATES

Friday Night Game/ November Sectional

Bonnie Smith reported that she had received 26 registrations from non-life masters, making the table count of the event at least 13. Several Mentees are playing with their Mentors as well as others who have requested a partner. She will deliver the registration forms to the Directors on Thursday night, November 12 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Margaret Devere suggested that the entry forms be filled out with the players' names as a courtesy. Joan Kushner volunteered to do this as she will be present for the election slate nominations and is not playing in the event that evening.

Jeanne Achziger will plan on having cookies served for the hospitality.

Mentor Program

Phil Debus reported that the Unit has paid for 88 mentees to play in the program and that the program seems to be very successful.

ACTION LIST UP-DATES

1. Margaret Devere presented the Board with the printed flyer for the Denver Regional.
2. Jerry Ranney took Regional flyers to the Taos Regional and gave flyers to the head Director, Gary Zeiger.
3. Margaret will add a link to the website so Colorado Springs website can be accessed for results from the Front Range Challenge Event, after the event has occurred.
4. Margaret realized that it will not be necessary to form an archival committee as the information in recorded in all the "Table Talk" publications going back to 2010 have been included in the second version of "Table Talk" that was provided by Joan Kushner and placed on the website by Margaret. Financial information is not all there and that would require more details. Jim Calhoun mentioned that all that was needed would be a balance sheet summarizing each year.
5. Joan Kushner had prepared a template.
6. Joan Kushner has posted a complete version of "Table Talk" on the website.
7. Phil Debus did review the anticipated budget and reported that a special CPA study recommended a cushion of no less than \$51,000, however, it is not clear if this would apply to the financial area of a bridge unit.
8. The research for Bridge Camp is still ongoing and Jim will present the proposal when his research is completed.
9. Jim Calhoun has accepted the license for the program "LBIAD".
10. After the Board discussed this matter, Margaret Devere decided that this proposal was not necessary at this time. The Board decided to use the available treasury funds to fund educational/mentor programs and hospitality, after evaluating the needs on a case by case situation.

11. Al Kane has informed the ACBL of the new game scheduled for Thursday evening at our Sectional tournaments in 2016.
12. Jim Calhoun is planning on making a poster for the "Mixed Pairs" event at the January Sectional and one to announce the increase in fees for upcoming Sectionals in 2016.
13. Al Kane will finish selecting the "D" team for the Front Range Challenge. A contingency pair/pairs may be needed.
14. Joan Kushner will consult with Colorado Springs in the future regarding changes of contest. The addition of other units will be considered.
15. Margaret Devere has arranged for an election by ballot for Unit Board positions at the November Sectional. If the need arises.
16. The voting for the Board of Governors is now over.
17. The committee working on the Friday night special game at November Sectional will continue until this event has occurred.
18. Pat Henke has arranged for the catering for the I/N tournament. Piccolo's has been hired to do the job.
19. Pat Henke will be able to be in charge of the I/N tournament.

DISTRICT 17 BUSINESS

Jerry Ranney reported the following items:

1. The D17 Board voted to lower the sanction fees at the Regional to \$7.00 a day. This will result in a Savings of \$2000 to the Unit.
2. The Pro-Am event at the Denver Regional produces a loss for the Unit. He suggested to the D17 Board that the sanction fee be waived in lieu of that fact and the D17 Board agreed. The Western Conference also waved the sanction fee.
3. The D17 reception at the Denver Regional will not be held this coming year due to budget problems.
4. The Championship Flight of the GNT's may not be held in Denver, however, this issue has not yet been resolved and will be discussed by the D17 Board in the future.

Flo Newlin reported that there are 3 non-life Master Regionals available in District 17. She wondered if our Unit would like to host one of these Regionals. The Regional could actually be held during one of our Sectional tournaments as it is difficult to find an appropriate site and a date that does not conflict with other tournaments. The Unit Board will discuss this matter at a future meeting.

Flo then announced that she was resigning from the D17 Board due to personal reasons. The effective date of her resignation will be December 31, 2015. She wishes to complete her duties as the Goodwill/Charity Chairman and Election Secretary. Flo thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve on the D17 Board for the last three years. Her term has one year remaining and the position for a Unit 361 representative will be up for election again in 2015. She read her letter of resignation to the Unit Board and a copy was given to the Unit Secretary. A copy of the letter will be kept in the Unit 361

records. The Unit /361 Board sadly accepted her resignation and thanked Flo for her many years of dedication and excellent representation of this Unit on the District17 Board of Directors.

Since Flo's resignation takes effect at the end of 2015, there will be an opening on the District 17 Board. Anyone who is a member in good standing in the Denver Unit is eligible to run as long as that person does not receive any remuneration from the ACBL or any local bridge club on a regular basis. Self-nominations are acceptable. The Denver Board will elect a new Representative at the December 11 meeting with a ballot vote and election will be by a majority vote. If a candidate does not receive better than 50% of the vote, a run-off will be held between the top two contenders. If there is only one candidate, that person shall be declared elected. All used and unused ballots of the 10 Unit Board members shall be returned to Flo Newlin and Flo will count the ballots and notify the Unit involved and the D17 Board of Directors of the new representative.

If any member with the above stated qualifications is interested in running for this position, they are to contact Bonnie Smith, unit secretary, with an official statement of their interest. The deadline for nominations is November 30, 2015. If possible, it is recommended that anyone interested attend the November Board meeting (Monday, November 9 at 4:30pm at the House of Cards) and talk with the Board about your interest and reasons why you would like to represent the Denver Unit. Please let Joan Kushner know that you will be attending so that she can put you on the agenda. For more information on D17 Board activities and requirements, see the bylaws on the D17 website.

Margaret Devere announced that she can send out an e-mail from a roster list to all members about this opportunity. She plans to do this in the near future.

Joan Kushner announced that Don Heitler has expressed his desire to run for this position.

UNIT BOARD ELECTION UPDATE

Joan Kushner mentioned that a member who had expressed the desire to be on the slate for the Unit 361 election has not followed up at this time but that person or anyone else may be nominated from the floor during the election meeting at the Sectional. Margaret Devere, the Chair for this committee, announced that all was ready for an election by ballot, if necessary.

No further business was discussed. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 9 at 4:30pm at the House of Cards.

Respectfully submitted

Bonnie Smith (Secretary Unit 361/ACBL)

(Action list to follow on the next page)

ACTION LIST

1. Marilyn Ballon will be in charge of the arrangements for the December 11 dinner; the dinner will be held before the December Board meeting. (Before December 11, 2015)
2. Jim Calhoun will make a poster advertising a “Mixed Pairs” game to be held on Thursday nights at the January Sectional in 2016 and one to inform members of the increase in fees for Sectional events in 2016. These will be posted at the Jeffco site at the November Sectional, 2015 and the I/N tournament (November 12, 2015)
3. Al Kane will finalize the “D” category team for the Front Range Challenge.(Before the FRC)
4. Al Kane and Jerry Ranney will attempt to locate the boards for the I/N tournament. If they cannot be located, Al will contact Pat Henke and Joan Kushner and arrangements will be made to provide some boards.(in the next 2 days)
5. Jim Calhoun will continue research on the “Bridge Camp Program” and present a proposal to the Board for consideration. (In 2016, two – three months before the possible time set for the event.)
6. Margaret Devere will add a link to the Unit website that will allow access to the Colorado Springs website for the posting of results of the Front Range Challenge. (After the FRC)
7. Joan Kushner will consult with Colorado Springs regarding changing some of the conditions of contest and the possible addition of other Units to the event. (In 2016, timed to allow for the inclusion of any changes in the 2016 FRC).
8. Margaret Devere will conduct a ballot election at the November Sectional if required. She will appoint a person to monitor the ballot box and will appoint persons to count the ballots. (November 12, 2015)
9. Pat Henke will be in charge of overseeing the running of the I/N tournament. Income, table counts, etc will be reported to Joan Kushner and Jim Calhoun. (After the tournament)
10. Jeanne Achziger will provide any necessary supplies to Pat Henke/ House of Cards for the hospitality provided at the I/N tournament. (Before the tournament)
11. Jeanne Achziger will provide extra cookies to accommodate the players attending the special Friday night game at the Denver Sectional tournament in November. (November13)
12. Bonnie Smith will continue to keep a roster of all non-life masters and life masters registered for the Friday night game at the November sectional. She will find life master partners for those non-life masters who require one and will contact both parties when the match has been made. As well, Bonnie will contact all players one week before the tournament to remind them of the event. (up to November 12)
13. Bonnie Smith will accept all applications for the position on the Board of Governors and will inform the Board of the names of these candidates. The candidates will also be informed of the opportunity to attend the next Unit Board meeting to discuss the reasons why they would like to be considered for this position.(Before the deadline of November 30, 2015)
14. Margaret Devere will send out an email to all members having an e-mail on the ACBL roster, discussing the upcoming position on the D17 Board of Governors. The e-mail will have information regarding the qualifications and the deadline for submitting one’s application. (Before the next Board meeting)

