

Meeting Minutes for Unit 361 board meeting

May 13, 2017

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am. The following members attended: Jim Calhoun, Wayne Eckerling, Rick Gardner, Vard Nelson, Nancy Rassbach, Pam Root, and Bob Stansbury. Also in attendance were legal counsel, Forest Clark, and D17 representatives, Jennifer O'Neill and Jerry Ranney.

Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously accepted without revisions.

Financial Report

Rick Gardner provided revised a financial report for the I/N tournament – it netted about \$10.

Action Items

Margaret

- Will do questionnaire later (for July Sectional)
- Tried to get BridgeResults straightened out for the Spring sectional, but didn't get very far -- the incorrect results were removed but correct results were not uploaded. Results on ACBL website appear to have been fixed. ACBL Live is incomplete, and Margaret let it go since the basic website was okay. (For those who are wondering why ACBL Live isn't populated automatically: There appears to be no way to make the two software systems communicate automatically. The results have to be uploaded separately to each system.)- see further discussion of BridgeResults below as part of the regional tournament preparation. The Board agreed to have further discussions about using Bridge Results. The \$120 fee for the current calendar year has already been paid, and it covers 4 sectional tournaments and two I/N tournaments For many players, BridgeResults provides very similar information to ACBL Live, which is free.
- Jeffco is unwilling to make any changes to their basic contract based on an email exchange Margaret had with Jeffco staff. According to the Unit's legal counsel, it is unlikely that the contract will be changed as it is a standard form most likely written by a County attorney. Jeffco is unwilling to make changes to the penalty for late fees (currently, the contract does not cap the penalty). Jeffco staff has expressed an openness to meeting after a tournament to discuss what went well and areas of need of improvement. The Board is generally in agreement that a face-to-face meeting would be a good idea, but that no decision should be made until input is received from the Unit president.

Pam

- Front Range Challenge – no update at this time as the event is held at the end of October.

Regional update

Rick

- Rick will be responsible for depositing all income from the regional tournament into the Unit's account.

Bob

- The Unit has sufficient supplies for the regional tournament with the exception of two entry form colors. These have been ordered from Bridge Buddy, which is less expensive than Baron Barclay. The entry forms are expected to be received well before the start of the regional tournament.

Pam

- Pam has secured more than 10 gift cards from restaurants. There will be a drawing for the gift cards on Friday afternoon. A number of restaurants have also agreed to offer a discount to players who show their convention cards. The registration packet will include a \$5 coupon for hotel food or drink, a convention card holder, and a tournament patch. On Wednesday afternoon, \$2 coupons will be given out. On Monday, \$5 coupons will be given out to encourage more players.

Jerry

- BridgeResults, as well as ACBL Live, will be used at the regional tournament as an anonymous donor has paid the \$90 fee for BridgeResults. Previously, District 17 paid the fee, but it stopped when ACBL Live became available. Margaret will do the necessary setup so that tournament results can be uploaded to BridgeResults. The tournament director has agreed to upload results to Bridge Results. BridgeResults will also provide a link to the daily bulletin.
- There should be less confusion this year about where various events will be held. For the most part, morning and afternoon pair games will be held downstairs and team games will be held upstairs. All evening games will be downstairs.
- The room block at the Renaissance as well as the supplemental block at the Holiday Inn are sold out.
- The daily bulletin will again be done by Carolyn Newcomb. We will have a printed version, and there will be a link to it on the BridgeResults email that players receive. Other regionals where an electronic copy is made available are only printing a few hard copies each day. Demand for the printed version will be monitored throughout the week and the number printed will be reduced based on demand. Carolyn may not want to do the bulletin again next year.
- The Renaissance has been told to expect a meal rush between the morning and afternoon and, to a lesser extent, between the afternoon and evening events. The hotel has been asked to add staff during these times and to have some quick meal options available.
- Setup will be Tuesday morning at 9 am. Jim, Wayne and Vard agreed to

assist.

Jim

- Jim is planning to make three posters – one for upstairs, one for downstairs and one for the partnership desk.
- Jim is also working on an electronic registration system for next year.

Wayne

- Dianne has prepared ‘Ask Me’ ribbons, which she wanted to give to individuals who would be around the 199er events. The Board agreed that all Board members would wear ribbons.

Vard

- The Board unanimously approved a \$359 purchase of a cork board for the partnership desk at the regional.

Nancy

- Approximately 80 pros and amateurs have signed up for the Pro/Am event, but the number changes daily. Next year Nancy will have a deadline for signing up (probably Friday before the regional) to make it easier to ensure that everyone has a partner. Nancy will also use email for signing up amateurs next year rather than having individuals call her.
- The Board unanimously approved an expenditure of about \$400 for Amazon gift cards to be given out to amateur winners of each section (\$25) and to the first (\$75) and second (\$50) place overall (amateurs only).
- Nancy delegated assigning caddies for the Regional to the Head Caddy. As a result, many of the previous caddies were not contacted, and the Head Caddy filled slots with other people. She believes this was an error, and will work to ensure that future tournaments (both upcoming Sectionals and next year's Regional) make assignments better using available resources.

Bylaws committee report

The bylaws committee (Nancy Rassbach, Sherry Clint, Bill Beard, Lori Beard, and Jerry Ranney) met and discussed three issues: 1) term limits for Board members; 2) changing Board terms from two to three years; and 3) changing the starting time for Board members from Christmas to July. The proposed changes #1 and #2 were rejected because they might reduce the pool of individuals willing to serve on the Board. The third change was viewed favorably, but not sufficiently significant to warrant changing the bylaws. This led to a more general discussion of Board candidates and elections, which is reported below under *Other Business*.

Platinum LM award

Jim has ordered the award for Anne Brenner. It will be presented at the July sectional.

D17 Report

Jerry discussed two issues. First, that the District has agreed to support a longest day contribution of \$1 per table at the Las Vegas regional with an overall cost estimated at \$250 to \$300. Second, D17 is considering withdrawing from the Western Conference because of the cost of the newspaper that all members receive. Currently, the newspaper costs about \$2.25 per table at regional tournaments. The proposal before the Western Conference is to raise the fee to \$3.25 per table. Some districts are supportive of this, but within D17 there appears to be widespread agreement that the newspaper should be published less frequently and/or distributed electronically. These suggestions don't have strong support within some other Western Conference districts.

Other business

The Board discussed the need to recruit new Board members. It was suggested that if more candidates than vacant positions are nominated to stand for election, those not elected need to be personally contacted and told that they might still be called upon to serve should a Board vacancy. The need to reach out and identify potential candidates who regularly play at other clubs was discussed. The general procedure is for those interested to be screened by a nominating committee. The nominating committee then brings a group of possible candidates to the Board for their consideration. The Board then recommends a group of candidates for the consideration of the Unit members in the election. The bylaws do not provide details about the nominating committee process, so there is some flexibility. There is a general perception within the Unit that getting on the Board is an 'inside' job. The Board agreed to discuss this issue more at future meetings. The following current Board members will be up for election this year: Tom, Rick, Jim, Dianne, and Nancy.

Distribution of free plays

Free plays were distributed to Board members after the meeting.

Next meeting

10:00 am, June 3, House of Cards

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.