

## Minutes of Board Meeting Unit 361

**Date:** January 6, 2018

**Location:** Denver Metro Bridge Club

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Attendees:** Margaret Devere, Wayne Eckerling, Rick Gardner, Dan Marthaler, Vard Nelson, Nancy Rassbach, Pam Root, Mary Ann Rose, Bob Stansbury, Rob Vetter  
District 17 Representatives: Jerry Ranney, Jennifer O'Neill  
Legal Counsel: Penny Coffman

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Gardner.

**Minutes:** Approved as submitted.

**Financial:** No report for this meeting.

### Action Items Review:

Rick Budget committee consisting of Dan, Wayne, Margaret and Jerry, will meet time TBD.

FRC points have now been recorded by ACBL; problem was at the ACBL end.

Rob Pianola regarding Friday night game was sent, but still receiving questions from members who did not receive or did not read the email. A new email will be sent with the entire tournament schedule.

Board members have been updated on the website.

Nancy Contact Jim about awards and trophies. Will do prior to next meeting.

Wayne Will meet with the hotel and involved board members (probably separately) for Regional planning in the near future.

Jennifer and Mary Ann have agreed to coordinate the Pro Am event. The flyer indicates a masterpoint range for Ams of 5-299 as well as a sign up deadline.

IN Update: The board discussed options for the location of IN tournaments this year. It was mentioned that House of Cards is starting a new social game on Saturdays. It was noted that since Denver Metro has kitchen facilities, it allows more flexibility with refreshments. The consensus was to tentatively split this year's IN tournaments between the clubs but to revisit based on future

developments.

Bob Supplies are in place for the next tournament. Bob will review the supplies after the January tournament to determine what needs to be ordered for the Regional. Cowboy Storage first quarter rent has been paid.

Sectional tournaments have been scheduled through 2021. Requests have been made for IN and Regional tournaments but have not yet been approved by ACBL.

Margaret Has agreed to serve as an emeritus member with no permanently assigned duties.

### **Tournaments for 2018:**

January 12-14

March 9-11

April 28-29 (IN)

May 22-28 (Regional)

July 13-15

October 6-7 (IN)

November 9-11

It was noted that 5 of the 6 non-IN tournaments are in the first 7 months of the year. We may want to look at shifting some dates to change this.

### **January Sectional Prep:**

Setup will start at 8:00 Friday. People who can help are encouraged to come. It would be helpful for someone to wipe off the tables as part of the setup.

Margaret mentioned the need for an "exit person" to notify JeffCo when each day's event is complete. The following people will serve for this tournament:

Friday: Rick

Saturday: Rob

Sunday: Bob

Caddies: Dan and Nancy are coordinating caddy recruitment for this tournament.

Partnership/photo: It was noted that no event winners were photographed at the last tournament. An announcement at this tournament will encourage event winners to get photos taken.

Hospitality: Pam discussed the need to have someone assigned to clean up the kitchen on Sunday. It was agreed to offer the job to Shirley Miller, who would also be performing caddy duties. The pay was set at \$35 (per subsequent discussion among Dan, Nancy and Pam).

### **March Sectional:**

Friday day team event: The current compact teams has not been well attended, and the small number of teams results in teams with many thousands of masterpoints playing teams with very few masterpoints. It was decided that we would convert this event to a bracketed teams,

with 6 rounds of 8 boards, 3 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. Teams would not be allowed to withdraw (except at the director's discretion).

Sunday team event: It was decided to change the Sunday team event from A/X Swiss and B/C/D bracketed to a full bracketed event. Bracketing and withdrawals will be at the director's discretion.

Friday night event: The group decided on an "Eight Is Enough" format, with much discussion during and after the meeting as to the exact numbers and masterpoint cutoffs. Margaret volunteered to take the lead on publicizing and coordinating this event.

Rob will put together the March flyer with this information and make it available at the January Sectional.

### **Mentor/Coaching Program and Other New Player Issues:**

Wayne discussed comments from the coaching program survey. In general it appears that most players were not too happy with the coaching program and would prefer a mentoring program. It was decided that the mentoring program would not be sponsored financially by the Unit, but that the mentee would pay card fees for the mentor. Wayne will provide email addresses for people to sign up as mentors and mentees. Nancy will assist in recruiting mentors. It was decided that mentees would be required to have between 25 and 500 MPs, and be a non-Life Master.

Rick will discuss with directors the possibility of a completely separate 299er area, including a separate entry desk. The Unit will explore the possibility of providing an "expert" to discuss 2 or 3 hands after the session. Another idea was the possibility of prizes or free plays for "frequent players." Mary Ann also mentioned the possibility of coordinating Uber or Lyft transportation from the clubs to the tournament. Wayne will research the possibility of providing bridge instruction and games at local schools. Wayne and Mary Ann presented several ideas for encouraging attendance at 299er events and getting "brand new" bridge players to advance to duplicate.

### **Other Business:**

The board decided to discontinue the use of Bridge Results.

It was decided not to appoint a formal NAP/GNT coordinator. However, we may want to find a way to encourage clubs to host GNT qualifier events.

Margaret will work on providing a hard copy Unit directory for 2018-2019. The cost of printing a recent directory was \$1700-1800. It was suggested that the directory be changed to contain email addresses rather than mailing addresses; this would make the size of the directory (and printing costs) comparable to previous years. Margaret will check whether the printing costs can be reduced by using Cherry Creek schools services. An announcement at the tournament will remind players to make sure their information is correct with the ACBL. Because this is a two-year directory, advertisers will pay \$100 for 1/3 page instead of \$50, and so on. Nancy will work with Margaret to collect ads.

### **District 17 Report:**

Nothing to report until after the January D17 meeting.

### **Front Range Challenge:**

Pam volunteered to act as coordinator for this year, and to check with Jim about the location of

the trophy. It was suggested that when the trophy is updated, only the year and winner should be included.

**2018 Board Meetings:**

To meet the requirement of eleven meetings a year, we need ten of the listed dates. Dates in bold precede tournaments.

2/3

**3/3**

4/7

**5/5**

6/2

**7/7**

8/4

9/1

10/6

**11/3**

**Action Items:**

Rick            Presidential Message.  
                  Budget committee meeting

Rob             Flyer for March Sectional to be available at January Sectional

Nancy          Contact Jim regarding trophies and awards  
                  Order name tag for Mary Ann  
                  Coordinate directory ads with Margaret

Margaret      Hard copy membership directory  
                  Work with Rob and others to develop and publicize Eight Is Enough for March

Wayne and Mary Ann  
                  Continue to develop mentor program and other education/membership/IN  
                  programs

**Next Meeting:**      February 3, 2018, at 10:00 AM at Denver Metro Bridge

**Adjournment:**      11:54 AM

Respectfully submitted,

NANCY RASSBACH  
Secretary 2018  
Unit 361