

## Minutes of Board Meeting Unit 361

**Date:** February 3, 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  
Ethics: Susan Grauer  
Legal Counsel: Penny Coffman

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Gardner.

**Minutes:** A correction was noted: Instead of 5 of 6 non-IN tournaments in the first seven months of the year, the minutes should state that 4 of 5 of the non-IN tournaments are in the first half of the year. Otherwise approved.

**Ethics Issue:** There was an incident at the January Sectional involving a bridge player and one of the caddies. Susan Grauer will convene a hearing to determine actions that may be taken. The director-in-charge was Bill Michael, and the complainant was Rick Gardner on behalf of the unit. Jerry Ranney agreed to serve on the committee. The third member will be selected by Susan from the following list, in order of priority: Flo Newlin, Marsha or Bill Shaw, Don Boyarsky, Michael Schneider. Margaret volunteered to work on wording for a banner stressing ethics and good behavior to be displayed at all tournaments.

**Financial:** The financial report from the January Sectional was reviewed. There appeared to be a discrepancy in numbers related to ACBL To/From that affected the total loss from the tournament. Rick and Dan (and possibly Jerry) will review the issue.

### Action Items Review:

- Rick Budget committee consisting of Dan, Wayne, Margaret and Jerry was held. There will probably be another committee meeting before the budget is distributed to the board.
- Rob July Sectional flyer has been sent for review. Note larger font, with credit to Sheryl Siegel. Flyers for the April IN tournament are in progress and will be available 8 weeks prior to the tournament. The current plan is to provide \$2 coupons at the March Sectional for the IN tournament and \$2 at the IN tournament for the July Sectional.

Rick pointed out the the website domain name, denverbridge.com, is actually owned by a player in Northern Colorado, and that the site is maintained by Kitty Cooper, although Rick and Rob have access to update some portions of the site. Rick requested that board members review some other unit websites and provide feedback as to whether the unit should invest in a person to upgrade and maintain the website. It is recognized that this would be a significant investment.

Nancy Received information from Jim Calhoun about ordering trophies and name tags. Determined that all new board members have name tags (ordered by Jim prior to the November election).

Dan Sectional financial report should contain a separate line item for flyers. Previous sectional financial reports will be updated with this line item if feasible.

Wayne Next IN tournament will be held at Denver Metro, as House of Cards does not currently have facilities to host the IN tournament. A separate event will be available for players with 0-10 masterpoints.

Bob Supplies are available to refresh cards in bidding boxes. Bob will order extra PASS cards. Volunteers will be asked to help refresh the bidding boxes on a Sunday afternoon after the March Sectional. Rick will schedule the event room at his residence.

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

Vard Noted that attracting newer players is about “gestures, not money,” suggesting possible elimination of free plays.

Mary Ann Presented an analysis of current and proposed intermediate and newcomer issues.

- Mary An recommended that the Pro Am will not be held in 2019. The next Pro Am should feature pre-assigned partnerships and reduced or eliminated cash prizes. Funds should be used instead for newcomer games.
- More games should be available for 0-10 and 0-50 newcomers, including at Sectionals and Regional
- Replace free plays with other inducements, such as play with a “pro.”
- Establish a “brown bag” review of hand records after Sectional and Regional events
- Have a separate selling area for 299ers. We will attempt to do this at the March Sectional
- Change mentor/mentee program to be more of a hybrid approach, where the number of games can be variable and am's can pick a pro, with

someone coordinating the introductions. It was suggested that providing pictures of mentors would help newer players identify potential mentors.

- Attempt to recruit experienced players to serve as mentors as well as hand record reviewers, leaders of short teaching sessions, and “prizes” for IN events

Margaret      Directory is in progress. Cherry Creek Schools only does printing for non-profit organizations, so this is not an option for us. We will remove the club schedules from the directory, since these change often. Instead, the clubs will be listed with addresses, phone numbers, website, and game type. We will remove the paragraph indicating that members' written permission is required to be included in the directory.

Pam              Front Range Challenge results are missing only for 2014. This will be added to the trophy.

### **January Sectional Review:**

Table count was 413.5. We should use 400 as the planning number for table count going forward.

### **March Sectional Preparation:**

We are still having problems getting people to get photos taken when they win events. It was suggested that members of the board should be proactive in pointing winners at Vard for photographs.

Margaret has requested that people interested in playing in the Friday night “Eight Is Enough” event should pre-register. If there are less than 4 teams, the event should probably not be held. Based on the attendance at this event we may decide to cancel future Friday night events.

The board agreed that the Sunday bracketed team event should be based on the team average (not total points, to handle 5 or 6 person teams).

Kitchen cleanup was handled at the January Sectional by Sheryl Siegel and Susan Marshall. It was proposed and accepted that they continue this duty in exchange for two free plays.

### **Regional Preparation:**

It was decided that the first day's Daily Bulletin would be distributed as hard copy, with an indication to the players that subsequent issues would be online only. The cost of to produce a the bulletin is \$50 plus printing costs. Board members are encouraged to have information regarding speakers, hospitality, and other information pertaining to the whole tournament available to be published in the paper bulletin.

Due to time constraints, additional discussion about Regional planning was deferred until the next meeting, when it will be placed at the start of the agenda.

### **Plotter/Printer:**

After discussion it was determined that the disadvantages of the Unit owning either a plotter or color printer would outweigh the potential cost savings. Rob will check into potentially cheaper

options for printing flyers.

**District 17 Report:**

Jerry announced that the ACBL is planning to disallow non-members from playing in tournaments. A one-month membership will be offered for \$7.99 for individuals that want to play in a single tournament. The unit will investigate the possibility of managing the membership fee for new players.

**Announcement:**

Rick requested that all board members check emails at least every other day. He mentioned that using filtering tools may help keep board business separate from other emails.

**Action Items:**

- Bob            Schedule and coordinate bidding box refresh
  
- Rob            Flyer for July Sectional
  
- Nancy        Order Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards  
              Coordinate directory ads with Margaret
  
- Margaret    Hard copy membership directory. Work on poster re ethics and behavior.
  
- Dan, Nancy, Rob, Margaret  
              Work on a plan for recruiting mentors/leaders

**Next Meeting:**        March 3, 2018, at 9:45 AM at Denver Metro Bridge. Note earlier start time.

**Adjournment:**        12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

NANCY RASSBACH  
Secretary 2018  
Unit 361