

## Minutes of Board Meeting Unit 361

**Date:** May 12, 2018

**Location:** Denver Metro Bridge Club

**Time:** 9:46 AM

**Attendees:** Margaret Devere, Wayne Eckerling, Rick Gardner, Alice Kinningham, Dan Marthaler, Nancy Rassbach, Pam Root, Bob Stansbury, Rob Vetter  
District 17 Representative: Jerry Ranney  
Legal Counsel: Penny Coffman  
Pro Am Representative: Shelbie Bastiaans

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Gardner.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

**Financial Reports:** The I/N Sectional resulted in a loss of approximately \$350-360. The difference between this year's loss and last year's profit was due to paying Elly for food at the tournament. The board agreed that we want to continue this policy going forward. The financial report for the March Sectional is not yet available, partly due to the fact that some receipts were not turned in promptly. Rick urged members to turn in all receipts to Dan as soon as possible to allow timely preparation of the financial reports.

### Action Items Review:

- Rick Registration for the domain name has been changed to the person of record, Penny Coffman.
- Rob The information for the July Sectional was not submitted in time for the deadline, mostly because the deadline for the new online Forum was not announced in a timely manner. Rob will request a calendar of deadlines for the Forum. Information about the July Sectional will be sent via Pianola. It was noted that local members only have the ability to send Pianola announcements to our unit and adjacent units. Rob will contact John Grossman regarding sending Regional information to a broader audience.
- Dan Free plays were distributed for the upcoming tournament.
- Bob Bob is still unable to update names on Tourney Trax for tournaments that he did not set up. It is believed that Rob, as Web Coordinator, should be able to make these updates; he will see if this is possible. If not, we may need to contact Al Kane, who created the entries, to do the updates.

- Vard Vard was not able to attend the meeting but provided comments on the I/N tournament. These comments are included at the end of this document.
- Margaret The group discussed the results of Margaret's research regarding fonts and colors for name tags. It was decided to use the Franklin Gothic font and brushed steel (silver) background. The board decided to order new name tags in the new font and finish for all board members.

### **I/N Tournament Review:**

The I/N tournament had 30.5 tables in the morning and 25 in the afternoon. There were 6 tables in the 0-10 event. Food provided by Elly Larson and Betsey Wilson was enjoyed by the players. Wayne mentioned a special recognition to Susan Marshall and Sheryl Siegel for their organization of supply boxes. It was noted that more than one person are needed to organize the playing space on the day of the tournament. There was a discussion around the number of boards played in the Swiss team event. The members present agreed that limiting the number to 36, the minimum for an official ACBL event, seems to work best for less experienced players, but note Vard's comments at the end of this document.

### **Regional Preparation:**

Dan will ensure that receipts are deposited daily from Tuesday through Friday evenings, and will be sure to collect all receipts from Gary Zeiger on Monday.

Wayne announced that 1069 room nights have been booked with the hotel. He will get information from the hotel to allow comparison with 2016 bookings (2017 was an anomaly due to hotel remodeling).

Shelbie gave a status report about the Pro Am. There are currently 62 Ams and 58 Pros signed up. There was discussion about attempting to recruit more Pros to try to get up to 78, which would constitute 3 sections. Shelby will contact Ams immediately prior to the tournament to ensure that they are still planning to come, and will create a standby Am list. It was suggested that a printed handout at the Pro Am registration should mention coupons handed out to all players for drinks and snacks as well as prizes for section tops and first through third places overall. Players winning prizes will have a choice of free plays or a date to "play with a Pro."

Margaret will plan to print 250 copies of the first day's bulletin, which will provide a link to the online bulletin for subsequent days. Additional copies will be printed if needed.

The charity pairs event on Tuesday night will feature cake and cookies provided by Betsey Wilson. Players will be able to register for a pair of red slippers made by Jennifer O'Neill at a cost of \$1 per entry to be donated to the charity fund. The drawing will be held later in the tournament.

Room and projector facilities have been arranged for Robb Gordon's ethics presentation on Friday between sessions. The bulletin will remind interested attendees of the presentation on Tuesday through Friday.

Seven new white boards will be used at the tournament to direct players to the locations for each event.

A drawing will be held between sessions on Friday to award restaurant gift certificates. Pam will provide a list of participating restaurants in time to be included in the printed bulletin.

It was noted that hospitality coupons distributed during the tournament will be valid throughout the hotel, except for the gift shop and room service.

A question was raised whether the Starbucks sensitivity training session on Saturday would affect coffee service at the hotel. Wayne will verify whether there will be an impact.

#### **Mentor/Coaching Program:**

Alice has contacted Denver Metro, House of Cards, and Castle Rock regarding what the unit can do to assist the clubs in providing mentoring, since there is no formal mentoring program this year. It was mentioned that there is a need for someone to help brand new duplicate players with the mechanics of the game, and it was suggested that less experienced players might be recruited for this function. Rick will send emails to clubs to offer to use Pianola if it would be helpful to their programs. The board agreed that some time in August or September we should begin planning for next year's mentoring program.

#### **Bidding Box Refresh:**

Thanks to Bob, Vard, Bob, Sheryl, Jerry, and Rick for participating.

#### **Office Depot Discount:**

It was noted that there is an Office Depot discount card that provides up to 70% off on printing. Board members who need to use this service can print their own version of the card.

#### **Website Hosting:**

Margaret has researched doing our own website hosting using services from HostGator. They have indicated that they can move all content and software for the site. This would also allow us to use email forwarding for partnership and similar functions. Rob questioned whether sub-domains are available. There was also a question as to whether we can get all content, since we are not owners of the current site. Dan and Rick will attempt to find the original contract with Kitty Cooper for development of the site.

#### **Front Range Challenge:**

Rick will contact Bill Curtis to determine if Colorado Springs is still willing to participate and/or host the event.

Vard has the Front Range Challenge trophy. Rick will contact Jim Calhoun regarding missing years of winners.

#### **Sectional Tournament Dates:**

Rick has determined that there are currently no conflicts with moving January to February and March to April. The change cannot be done prior to 2022 due to tournaments already scheduled.

#### **July Sectional:**

It was decided that Eight Is Enough will be the Friday night event for the July Sectional. Those who attended in March felt that the event was successful, but some attendees did not pre-

register and were not able to be paired with more experienced teammates.

**District 17 Report:**

A meeting will be held at the upcoming Regional.

**Action Items:**

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| Rick     | Contact Bill Curtis about Front Range Challenge. Contact Jim Calhoun about winners of Front Range Challenge. Contact clubs to see if we can assist with mentoring using Pianola.                      |
| Margaret | Resolve outstanding issues about web site hosting with HostGator. Order new name tags for board members.  |
| Rob      | Determine who can update current board members associated with future tournaments. Contact John Grossman to determine how to send Pianola announcements for regional tournaments to a wider audience. |
| Alice    | Check contents of new member welcome packet.  |

**Next Meeting:** June 2, 2018, at 10 AM at Denver Metro Bridge.

**Adjournment:** 11:49 AM

Respectfully submitted,

NANCY RASSBACH  
Secretary 2018  
Unit 361

## Notes from Vard:

### Some observations about the I/N Tournament:

- The event went exceedingly well, I thought. John Worley did an amazing job, including handling the off-the-books problems like having people show up late, having a team quit in the middle of the Swiss Team event (they did not know it was a double session!), having players leave for an extended lunch in the middle of the Swiss event, and running both the Swiss and the 0-10 MP game Sunday afternoon.
- The food and general hospitality seemed to be delightful. There was plenty for everybody, and lots of the desserts went begging for takers.
- The flyer probably needs another look. People were confused about the start time of the afternoon session on Saturday, some did not know the Swiss event was a double session, and some that did know thought there would be a longer lunch break and went home to walk dogs, etc. There is probably enough space on the one page flyer to flush out some of the details of the playing schedule.
- The second session on Saturday needed to be moved to 2:30 because there was not enough time after the first session finished to eat lunch and get back in line to register for the afternoon session.
- AND, my personal pet peeve observation - The Swiss Team event played only 36 boards. I think that is condescending, because it implies that the players are baby players and can't handle a full double session. Many of the players are REAL PLAYERS, they just don't have over 300 MP yet. Besides, anybody who has accumulated over 100 MP has played a lot of Bridge, and knows whether they can play a double session or not. I was recently one of those players (okay, maybe I wasn't a REAL PLAYER, but I considered myself one). Many of the players *come to play*, and they *play hard*. I, for one, foam at the mouth if I pay my good money and my Swiss gets cut to 42 boards. I think 36 is an insult to the players. In my opinion, if any session is going to be less than a full 24 boards it should be noted in the flyer. Players can then decide whether to spend their money on an abbreviated game. Again, I think the Swiss should be a 48 or 49 board game. If we think it will run too late, *Start Earlier!*
- The one exception to the remark above is the 0-10 MP game. That single session played 18 boards. Seemed like a good idea, a nice way to bring newer players into a tournament setting while giving them a little more time per board. I think it should be noted on the flyer, though, that the 0-10 MP game will play less than 24 boards.
- And finally, I thought Wayne did a thoroughly professional job of planning and running the tournament. All the details were taken care of, and, with the exception of the couple of items mentioned above, the entire event seemed to go smoothly and slick as greased glass. Beautiful job, in my opinion.