

February Minutes – February 8, 2020

Attendance: Carol Gumpert, Rob Vetter, Rick Gardner, Julie Clark, Ed Yosses, Penny Coffman, Donna Givner, Vard Nelson, Rita Simas, Wayne Eckerling. **Absent:** Bob Stansbury, Jennifer O'Neill

- **Call to Order** – 10:02 a.m.
- **Minutes Approval for last meeting** – motion for approval, seconded, approved
- **Action Item Review:**
 - **Rick** - In Memoriam page updated and reflects the fact that people need to contact the ACBL and notify them of the death. Doing this updates the In and Out Report. Rick looks at this and puts it in Table Talk. The list of who has passed away needs to be updated. Rick will send the list to Carol and/or Rob. Rick updates the list throughout the year.
 - **Rob** – Regional committee has been talking about managing electronic registration. Laptops are available for about \$129. If it has a locking mechanism, it costs a bit more. There are tablets available for about \$90 each. The problem with tablets is they are small and could be stolen. There is a \$23 cover for the tablet that could prevent theft. The printer is wi-fi. It could be hooked up wirelessly.

Motion – Rob is approved to research laptops prior to March's meeting. Seconded. Rob will investigate the cost.

Rob would take last year's label screen and modify it. Then, labels could be printed if wanted.

The question of whether or not this could also be used for paying for a tournament by credit card was asked. Rick is fairly certain the Purple Pass will be available at the regional. Rick is not sure it would be cost effective for the sectional. This can be taken up as a discussion item for future sectionals.

- **Julie** – Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards are completed.
- **Ed** – general financial comment. About \$16000 ahead of where we were this time last year. He has not yet received any invoice from Jim Calhoun at this time.

The savings account has \$59,344.84 (2019 was \$59,307.58). The checking account balance is \$71,252.58 (2019 was 54,745.59). There is one outstanding check totaling \$823.59. The unit also needs to pay Jeffco \$2,137.50 for the remaining balance due on the March sectional. All bills from the winter sectional have been paid.

The table count for the winter sectional was 473.5. The totals for previous years are: 2019 – 412.0, 2018 – 413.5, 2017 – 337.5, 2016 – 417.5, 2015 – 468, 2014 – 518, 2013 – 391, 2012 – 506.5 and 2011 – 476.5.

- **Wayne** – nothing not related to the Regional
- **Bob** – not present. Rob – Las Vegas Regional is the Monday after our November sectional. The regional is scheduled for a couple of years, so we need to consider future sectionals.

- **Vard** – the unit needs to look at constructive ways to spend our budget surplus. Right now, all the money goes to support our tournaments. Suggestions were to upgrade hospitality, upgrade awards and lower card fees for some classes of games. There was a discussion about the possibility of losing Jeffco as a playing site and costs could increase as a result. Until the unit knows what is going to happen with the site, it was agreed to maintain the money as we have it.

Use of social media. Young people are all over social media in all kinds of ways. The unit does have a Facebook page, but Rob stated it hasn't been maintained very well. We need to look into possibly having someone who can work on this. It may be a way to reach a population that is not being reached right now.

A summer camp was recommended. Going to high schools to address logic, teamwork, how to get along with people, etc. were also suggested. Everyone should expand their thoughts and put them together on a list. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

- **Donna** – worked with getting the teacher page set up. Has sent the information to Rob. Carol has another list she will send to Donna.
- **Rita** – nothing outside of Sectional and Regional
- **Carol** – has been in touch with the people at Pianola. They want people to buy credits that get used as emails are sent. Bonus credits are issued when credits are purchased. Last year 34,000 emails were sent. District 17 has made a commitment to 2 emails per Regional. The unit may want to send more than this. The District offer seems to be limited to District 17 only. Rob asked Cindy Shoemaker about Constant Contact – the district is paying \$125/month now. This is much more expensive than Pianola. Carol was approved to buy \$250 worth of Pianola credits.

- **Sectional Review**

- **Setup / Tear Down** – thanks to everyone who showed up for set up and tear down. Exhibit halls are 10,238 square feet. This figure needs to be kept in mind when/if the unit looks for a new venue.
- **Food** – went well. Comments – some people complained about the freshness of the bagels. Vard heard complaints about the quality of the food. Others heard it was the best we have had. People really liked the Subway. Sunday – some liked it, some did not like it. Vegetarian option of a salad was not adequate.

Rita cannot handle lunches and manage everything. Wants someone to volunteer to order the Subway and someone to order the pizza. Alice has volunteered to do ticket sales on both Friday and Saturday.

Both Friday and Saturday food amount can be reduced, but it was agreed the unit never wants to be short of food – the unit would rather have too much than too little. At the January Sectional, on Sunday 270 meals were purchased and 300 were needed. Friday – lunch should be delivered at 12:45. Saturday – delivery at 1:15. Glenna can handle the coordination of delivery and getting it set up.

The Board approved Rita's request for purchase of the following items: Pebbled Plastic Salad bowls (3) - \$86.97, Thermos for Half and Half storage (2) - \$67.98, Coffee Countertop Drip Tray (5) - \$30.25 and Hamilton Beach Coffee Urn (2) - \$280.00.

Will hire Mike or someone who is not a child for the entire tournament. Glenna will work the tournament.

Hospitality costs for January Sectional – The hospitality costs, including Subway and Papa John's was \$2884. The kitchen staff expense was \$700. The catering invoice was \$3,608. The total cost was \$7,192. The income from ticket sales and the player entry fee on Sunday was \$3,860. The net hospitality expense was \$3,332.

Plan for March – yogurt and fruit item purchase will be increased from the amount purchased in March. More pretzels will be ordered, as an additional purchase was needed for the last tournament. Rita has requested permission from Jeffco to serve Half and Half – the lack of it was a complaint at the last tournament. Cakes will be purchased from King Soopers – the cakes from Costco were too hard to cut and took up too much space in the refrigerator.

In the future, the unit needs a sign that says lunch ticket sales place at the ticket sales table.

- **Financial Report** – see information under Ed above.
- **Menus for March Sectional** - The unit opted to continue a catered lunch on Sunday. Nosh will be contacted to provide the lunch – Julie will contact Nosh. Subway will again be served on Friday – Donna and Rick will handle the ordering. Pizza will be on the menu for Saturday – Carol will order it.
- **Discussion on fairgrounds closure** - The Jeffco meeting to discuss the possible closure was cancelled due to weather. Rick will attend the next meeting. Wayne attended one meeting – people supported it staying open. According to Jeffco, the fairgrounds can't just raise fees due to the Tabor Amendment cap. The board needs to be prepared to find a new location in event Jeffco closes or prices themselves out of contention. Square footage, parking, fee, kitchen access, bathrooms and chairs all need to be considered.

Rick googled armories – price is cheap. A search committee was selected to find a list of 5-8 locations. Jerry Ranney, Bill Beard, Wayne Eckerling, Vard Nelson, Rick Gardner, Julie Clark. Rick will chair the committee.

- For July flyer change the Swiss format for rounds and boards played to read at Tournament Directors discretion

- **Regional Preparation**

- The first Soloway knockout will be named for Jan Janitschke. A suggestion to name the 2nd Soloway knockout after Chuck Henke was approved. If Pat or Bonnie want to pay for trophies, they can do that. Flyers will not be changed. This will be a one-time only occurrence. Future suggestions about event naming will be decided on a case by case basis.
- A day will be dedicated in memoriam to Bill Michael – Thursday – Goodwill Day. It will be a charity day and any proceeds will go to Juvenile Diabetes.

- Pro-Am – the unit will be having a reception following the event. The budget for the reception will be increased from the previous amount to \$3000 or so – Wayne and Rita are working out the details with the hotel – it will be a sweet and salty menu.
- IN Day – the registration fee will be to \$10 from \$13 and prizes will be given to all the stratified game winners. The unit will also provide \$2 off coupons for July Sectional for IN participants.
- There is a \$13,000 hotel spending requirement independent of hospitality things like trophies, etc. Last year the unit gave away coupons for people to spend for lunch, bar, coffee. This year, \$3000 of the amount will be spent for a reception after the afternoon day on one of the days – ice cream and cookies. This will result in only have \$7000 worth of coupons. The unit will also subsidize some portion of Monday's lunch. Wayne is working on logistics. \$2 coupons will be handed out when people register at the tournament.
- Hospitality budget - \$3600. Trophies will be purchased for Pro-Am winners. Rita is trying to buy a \$5 - \$8 kind of prize (monogrammed wine glass, thumb drive, tote bag, etc.). These prizes will be put in Caddy Room behind a locked door when the room is not manned. The prizes will be on display in the room. Rita still trying to coordinate with Joe to see if he has anything left over from last year.
- **Intermediate / Novice Review**
 - Program – not discussed
 - Tournament – not discussed
- **Mentor / Coaching Program** – will be first agenda item next year. Donna stated the program is not running the way it is posted on the website. Everyone should review the website and come prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.
- **Other Business**
 - Rick discussed with Ellie regarding "compensation" for her work regarding the IN Tournaments and she expressed a desire to get a full 36 board set of "plastic board holders".
 - A suggestion was made that the unit compensates her enough to avoid this type of purchase in the future
- **District 17 Report** – sent by Jennifer via email.

The Pueblo unit is ceasing operations effective 2/2/20.

The sanction fee changing from \$4.40 to \$4.66 effective 4/1/20.

Director fees are increasing by 11.25% effective 4/1/20.

The Nationals are moving forward to cashless entries using Square.

Columbus National is on track for hotel rooms, as is Montreal.

ACBL Live is required for clubs by March. This data is transferred to the Common game and then bridgewebs, etc. This will provide more date, be more accurate and facilitate the transfer to the national website.

The new board duplication went well in Albuquerque. This was District 17 and Bill Phillips' first time.

District 17 has 3 large timers that will need to be brought to Denver. More may be needed to accommodate the small rooms.

Cindy Shoemaker is the new National Representative for District 17. She is on several committees: Strategic Planning, Membership, Governance and Executive Review. She is in charge of communication on the district board. Cindy will also be the 2nd representative on the Western Conference Board.

Phoenix is holding a weeklong district wide fundraising game once a year to raise money for the Phoenix National, which will be held in 2022.

The District 17 NAP finals for 2021 will be held at the Las Vegas Regional, which starts November 9th.

Doug Couchman was elected as the 2nd Alternate to the Board of Governors to fill Art McAffiries term.

District 17 voted to purchase enough capacity from Pianola for the all the regionals to send two emails to the entire district to publicize their regional. The details on who will be in charge of this have not yet been worked out.

District 17 will hold their meeting in Denver on May 22nd at 8 a.m. A room needs to be reserved for this.

Board is looking for someone to be available in case Doug Couchman leaves – Jerry Ranney has put his name up for consideration.

The 2020 Flight A GNT district finals will be held in Tucson. Pre-registration by 2/15 is required.

If anyone has a recommendation for the unit's Goodwill Ambassador, let Jennifer know.

- **Announcements** - none
- **Front Range Challenge** - Nothing new
- **Action Items:**
 - Rob – research computers and come back to the board with figures at the March meeting
 - All members – brainstorm social media ideas and come prepared to discuss them at the March meeting
 - Future/Bob – look at the future Las Vegas Regional tournament dates and figure out how to adjust the November Sectional dates
 - Donna/Rick – contact Subway and order the meal for Friday at the March Sectional
 - Carol – contact Papa John's and order the pizza for Saturday at the March Sectional
 - Julie – contact Nosh and order the meal for Sunday at the March Sectional

- Rick – organize the search committee to research future playing sites
 - All members – review the mentor program on the website and come prepared to discuss it at the March meeting
 - Wayne – reserve a room for the District 17 meeting scheduled for May 22nd at 8 a.m.
 - Carol – change the July flyer to reflect At the Director’s Discretion for the number of rounds/boards for the bracketed teams
- Next Board Meeting Mar 7th / Metro / 10am
 - Adjourned. 11:58