

Denver Bridge Unit 361 Board Meeting

June 6, 2020

Attendance: Rita Simas, Carol Gumpert, Rick Gardner, Julie Clark, Wayne Eckerling, Donna Givner, Bob Stansbury, Ed Yosses, Rob Vetter, Vard Nelson. District 17 Representative – Jennifer O’Neill. District 17 National Representative – Cindy Shoemaker.

- Call to Order 9:02 a.m.
- Minutes from May 2020 were approved
- Cindy Shoemaker addressed the D25 letter
 - A response from the ACBL Board Meeting is going out next week
 - The health and well-being of ACBL members comes first
 - ACBL worked hard to support clubs during the pandemic
 - Clubs are the backbone to the ACBL
 - ACBL is hurting financially
 - The ACBL is losing approximately \$450,000 per month during the pandemic
 - The ACBL did apply for the available government loans
 - ACBL began to run events to help keep it financially afloat
 - These events will be run every other month
 - Will continue until the end of the year
 - Both events have been very successful
 - Regional
 - \$230,000 was generated
 - Silver point week
 - Received sanction fees from these games
 - The ACBL receives \$.80 for the SYC games (Secretary’s note: not sure if per player or per table)
 - The ACBL is beginning to bring back some of the staff that was laid off
 - Staff is now starting to be paid their full salaries
 - D25 asked to run online regionals and sectionals
 - The request was denied
 - There are too many complications to coordinate these events
 - They would take away revenue from the clubs
 - The ACBL is committed to helping the clubs
 - There was an allegation that a former Board of Directors member was receiving payments from the ACBL
 - Cindy assumed this was in reference to Jay Whipple
 - The ACBL has not paid Jay Whipple any money
 - He has donated his resources to help the virtual clubs
 - There was an allegation that the ACBL ignored the legislative process in promoting special games
 - This may be true, but the legislative process does not address what to do in time of crisis or pandemics
 - Membership has been very positive and supportive concerning the number of points awarded during these events and the way the ACBL has handled them
- Cindy Shoemaker addressed unit board members’ questions/concerns

- The question of what discussion about when/how clubs would be allowed to open was asked
 - There is a draft of safety guidelines that is in the approval process
 - It will be disseminated soon
 - Cindy will send it to the unit when it is approved
 - Opening of clubs is going to be a slow process
 - Each club will be subject to its state regulations
 - A suggestion was made to send a letter to the membership addressing the future of brick and mortar play
 - People are curious
 - Four clubs are actually opening
 - 1 in Nevada
 - 1 in Arizona outside of Tucson
 - Right now, the District has two regionals left for 2020
 - Unsure if they will be held or not – both are deciding whether to renegotiate them or hold them
 - Taos in October
 - Las Vegas in November
- The future of online bridge was discussed
 - A task force was developed to research this topic
 - Virtual clubs are working well across the country
 - ACBL management prepared a plan
 - It is awaiting input from the Board of Directors
 - There is a question of what online bridge will look like once the players return to playing in brick and mortar clubs
 - One question is how the ACBL and BBO will continue to work together
- A question was asked about comparing 2019's budget for the 1st four months of the year to 2020's budget for the 1st four months of the year
 - Cindy will obtain this information and send it to the unit
- A suggestion was made for unit presidents to receive a simplified budget
 - This would allow members to see how the ACBL is spending
- The question of whether or not the ACBL has a conflict of interest policy was asked
 - A suggestion was made that a solid conflict of interest policy should be part of the ACBL if it is not
 - The results of any investigation of a conflict of interest should be reported publicly
 - This would avoid allegations like the one recently made by D@%
 - It would also protect those accused of a conflict of interest
 - Note: Cindy did provide access to the ACBL's conflict of interest policy in an email following the meeting
- A statement was made that the ACBL has a poor record on financial decisions
 - Contracts are signed eight years in advance
 - Resulted in the National being held in Hawaii
 - A great deal of money was lost
 - The Board of Directors has someone looking at every single current contract
 - Looking for loopholes
 - Areas that could be renovated

- Conference Direct is now onboard
 - Addressing all contracts for ACBL
 - Bad decisions about technology has cost the ACBL a great deal of money
 - The ACBL is trying to correct things
 - ACBL Score has transitioned to ACBL Live for Clubs
 - The ACBL is working on more transparency in this area
- Action Item Review
 - Rick
 - The awards for En and AI are both in
 - Asked Ed to mail a check to Steel Images
 - Jefferson County has a health order gathering limit of 50 people
 - This would limit our sections to twelve tables
 - It was moved, seconded and approved to cancel the July sectional
 - By a vote of 4-3, the board decided to ask Jefferson County to roll over the money paid for the July tournament to the November sectional
 - Rob – nothing
 - Julie – nothing
 - Ed
 - Unit 361 Treasurer’s Report – May 2020
 - Savings Account balance as of May 31, 2019 \$ 59,322.
 - Savings Account balance as of May 31, 2020 \$ 59,352.
 - Checking Account balance as of May 31, 2019 \$108,850*.
 - Checking Account balance as of May 31, 2020 \$ 64,624
 - Total balances as of June 1, 2019 \$168,172*
 - Total balances as of June 1, 2020 \$123,976
 - *includes several large deposits from the Regional but many bills unpaid (as of May 31, 2019)
 - There are no outstanding/uncashed checks
 - We have no significant fiscal activity since the April report
 - Wayne – nothing
 - Bob - nothing
 - Vard - nothing
 - Donna – nothing
 - Rita – nothing
 - Carol
 - Asked Rick to write a letter to be disbursed via Pianola concerning the sectional cancellation
- Bob is not seeking reelection to the board next year
 - Currently the unit has sanctions for tournaments either 2 or 3 years out
 - The length of time depends on the tournament
 - Cowboy Storage should not be an issue
 - Bob will tell them we do not need a July delivery
 - They will continue to store our supplies
 - Bob will find out the cart status from Jim Calhoun
 - Last he knew, Jim is planning on fixing them at the next sectional

- Bob keeps a notebook concerning all sectional tournaments
 - He will give the notebook to the person who succeeds him
 - Bob will help the new person through the January sectional
 - Bob will write up descriptions of everything he does as sectional tournament chair
 - Wayne is not seeking reelection to the board next year
 - Need to start the process of transitioning Wayne's regional duties to his successor
 - The plans made for this year's regional are a good starting point
 - Wayne will do whatever is needed to help the new person with next year's regional
 - Wayne feels his biggest weakness was his inexperience a newer player
 - This was especially true when it came to attending nationals and regionals
 - Wayne is also the chair of the IN tournament
 - Vard is not seeking reelection to the board next year
 - Vard is in charge of partnerships for all tournaments
 - Vard is the photographer for all winners
 - Rita and Julie are also up for reelection and are planning on running
 - Rob is in charge of the search committee for new board members
 - There will be a discussion at the July tournament about how the voting will be handled
 - Question of whether the unit wants to continue a closed slate or open it up
 - District 17 Report
 - District 17 will lose about \$5000 if none of the remaining regionals are held this year
 - Grand Junction is still planning on holding its August sectional
 - Sharon Smith and Bill Curtis are running for the District Board
 - This is for Rod Southworth's position
 - There is another position open for New Mexico
 - District is currently unsure how the GNT will look, except for the Open category
 - It is expected to be held at the Denver regional
 - The NAP winners will represent the district at the next National
 - The transition from districts to regions is going to be phased in
 - It is not certain exactly how it will look yet
 - Adjourned meeting
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- Next Board Meeting 11 July / 9am / Zoom