

December 19, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Call to Order – 5:34 p.m.

- Minutes Approval for last meeting
 - A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve the minutes from the November 2020 meeting
- Financial Reports
 - Treasurer's Report – November 2020
 - Savings account balance as of November 30, 2020.....\$59356
 - Checking account balance as of November 30, 2020...\$69,816
 - There are no uncashed checks
 - Reimbursements
 - Election expenses of \$513
 - Storage fee for card tables of \$120
- 2020 In Review (in general)
 - Rick thanked everyone for their hard work throughout the year
 - Outgoing board members
 - Wayne Eckerling
 - Thanked everyone for their support while he was on the board
 - Thinks the board did a great job this year
 - Created rules for governance and how to do things
 - Were addressed in a thoughtful and fair way
 - Bob Stansbury
 - Thanked the board
 - Thanked Jennifer O'Neill as the District 17 representative for her coordination efforts with District 17
 - Bob has scheduled sectionals through 2022 and the regional through 2023
 - The new sectional chairperson will need to change the venue in the ACBL website once it is finalized
 - Applauded Rick and Julie for obtaining the Arapahoe County site for upcoming tournaments
 - Stated the finances of the unit will start to become strained if the unit has to wait too long to hold the next regional tournament
 - Vard
 - Acknowledged the work Rick has done as the President of the unit
 - He has brought cohesiveness to the board
 - Commended the unit for handling the finances in a careful manner
 - Hopes the unit will continue to be careful about clauses in contracts in the future
 - COVID has shown how important this is
 - Acknowledged the board is working closely with the only currently functioning club in the unit

- Cautioned that the future decisions should ensure they are to the unit's advantage, not solely to a club owner's
 - Advised the unit to continue to work with all the clubs in the unit, which is different from favoring one club over another
 - Rick
 - Commended Rob for the look and functionality of the new website
 - Appreciates the board is a high functioning board
 - Can assign tasks and is comfortable they will be done
 - Rob
 - The unit needs to be careful about contract negotiations in the future
 - Feels the ACBL itself may be in trouble
 - March is probably too early to attempt to hold a tournament
 - Has appreciated Vard's unique take on many issues
 - Has made the entire board look at things differently
 - Appreciated Bob's approach to getting things done quietly and efficiently
 - Wayne's skill at running the Denver Regional was fantastic
 - Julie
 - Echoed Rob's sentiments
 - The outgoing board members are going to be missed
 - Donna
 - Learned a lot in her first year on the board from everyone
 - Amazed at how much there has been to do, even during the pandemic
 - Carol
 - Echoed Donna's sentiments
 - Appreciated when someone picked up on little details that weren't readily apparent
 - Rita
 - Learned a lot in her first year
 - Jennifer
 - Going to miss Wayne, Vard and Bob
 - This has been a good, cohesive board
 - If the unit wants to hold some type of game, it must currently be held through Elly Larson's club
 - Ed
 - Since there were no significant expenses, he feels the board should be able to weather the current storm
- **New Board Members Joined at 6:10:** Kathleen Kelly and Tom Barrett. Absent: Tom Purl
 - Regional Discussion
 - A meeting was held to discuss the regional and a synopsis was sent to all board members
 - Julie Clark, Rick Gardner, Cindy Shoemaker (District 17 rep to ACBL), Jennifer O'Neill and Jerry Ranney attended the meeting
 - Moving the Regional to September is not feasible
 - At least two other nearby regionals are scheduled that week
 - The hotel cannot accommodate any other dates in September
 - Hotel rooms likely would not be sold, and the contract for the regional is based on the number of hotel rooms sold

- The ACBL is limiting the number of regionals, and getting a new sanction is not certain
 - Consensus was Denver should plan on holding the regional in May
 - The unit should not have any financial responsibility if the ACBL or the City and County of Denver do allow the gathering of 400+ people
 - If the unit cancels before 80 days prior to the tournament, there will be a loss of \$70,880
 - \$66,330 for 75% of the 737 room nights
 - \$4550 for the food and beverage penalty
 - Julie will contact the Renaissance and let them know the unit's plans
 - The unit will offer the Renaissance the ability to schedule any other event and cancel the tournament
 - The unit no longer wants the September dates held
 - The unit may negotiate further with the Renaissance closer to tournament time
 - May offer to pay more for concessions the following year if the Renaissance allows cancellation
 - The unit needs to be prepared to lose money if the regional is held in 2021
- 0-5 Reimbursement Discussion
 - A committee consisting of Donna Givner, Wayne Eckerling, Sheryl Siegel and Julie Clark met and established guidelines and an application for grants
 - Donna sent all the members a copy of the guidelines and application
 - An educational fund budget will be determined by the board annually
 - This will be done at the January meeting for 2021
 - An application will be required to be submitted and approved by the board prior to accessing any funds
 - The board pre-approved Elly Larson's request for the 0-5 game '
 - Cover the vendor fee and sanction fee
 - Not to exceed \$100
 - Will be re-evaluated during the January meeting
 - Donna Givner will send Elly Larson the application and guidelines
 - The money should be used for educational purposes and/or for the promotion of bridge in the Denver area
 - The money can only be allocated for unit members, per the by-laws
 - Members from other units can participate, but non-unit members' costs will not be covered
 - The proposed subsidy must be time limited
 - Goals must be provided
 - The Board of Directors will evaluate the progress every 8 weeks, or at a pre-determined interval
 - The funds will be available to any Denver Unit 361 sanctioned club or unit member, after the application has been approved by the Unit 361 Board of Directors
 - The funds should not be allocated for any normal business expenses
 - Qualified costs should be limited to expenses dedicated to ventures where the applicant is not receiving compensation for the event

- Profit making endeavors should be excluded from receiving any of this fund
 - This does not mean the entity cannot be a for profit
- Election of officers/assignment of Chairs
 - President – Rick Gardner
 - Vice President – Julie Clark
 - Treasurer – Ed Yosses
 - Secretary – Carol Gumpert
 - Webmaster – Rob Vetter
 - Caddy Chair – VACANT
 - Regional Chair – Julie Clark
 - I/N Chair – Kathleen Kelly
 - Sectional Chair – Kathleen Kelly
 - Supplies – Kathleen Kelly
 - Partnership – Tom Barrett
 - Photography – Tom Barrett
 - Hospitality – Rita Simas
 - Communications – Carol Gumpert
 - Membership – Donna Givner
 - Education – Donna Givner
- Other Business
 - Discussion about a grant for Elly Larson for Quick Bridge program
 - This is a 6-week program
 - This is a different program from the 0-5 program
 - The program provides bridge books, teaching and mentoring for new players
 - The last session had 22 participants
 - Eight of those participants have become ACBL members
 - Thirty participants are scheduled to start the second session in January
 - District 17 gave the program a grant of \$1000
 - The unit will consider a grant for the program upon receiving a completed application from Elly Larson
 - The costs associated with running the program include a Zoom license, mailing costs and books for the participants
 - The unit will hold a unit game in January 2021 through Elly Larson and BBO
 - The motion made, seconded and passed by a vote of 8-1
 - Rob and Julie were assigned to meet with Elly Larson to finalize the game
 - Items to be discussed
 - Cost of the game
 - Who can participate in the event
 - How to get everyone registered in Denver Metro's system
 - Stratifications
 - Payment to Elly Larson for running the game
 - A motion to hold a unit game paid for by the unit for any unit members was tabled
- District 17 Report
 - There are no updates
 - The District will be meeting bi-monthly in the future

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 9th at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom