

**Unit 361 Board
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2022**

Present

In person: Ed Yosses, Vivian Heggie, Kathleen Kelly, Margaret Devere, Tom Barrett, Eric Mead, Susan Grauer
On ZOOM: Julie Clark, Rita Simas, Jennifer O'Neill

Meeting called to order by president Julie Clark at 9:05

Finances: Ed. Ed sent several financial reports in an email before the meeting.

Resignation. Tom Barrett resigned due to family issues and work overload. He turned in his free plays, and returned the camera and printer. He left the meeting.

Mentor program limits: Ed. Phil Debus wants to serve as a mentor in the mentor program. He doesn't have quite enough points. Ed suggested lowering the mentor limit to 1000 MPs and raising the mentee limit to 500 MPs. Julie presented a concern about suitability. Susan said that inserting subjective opinions is a slippery slope. Margaret suggested raising mentee to 500, keeping mentor as is. Julie suggested lowering mentor to 1200 or 1000, keeping mentee as is. Ed moved to lower the mentor limit to 1000 and keep the mentee limit at 299. Motion carried.

Sam's Game: Susan. Unit is sponsoring but not running. "Sponsor" means sending out a Pianola (approx \$0.01 per address). There has been a good response to the March 20 game. Elly is donating 15% of profits to the unit. Julie has not yet communicated with other club owners. Discussion about who will set up the mentor/mentee pairs and define the limits. Susan and Ed said leave it up to the clubs. Julie said that this is Sam's game and we should maintain it as is. Margaret said that if we leave it up to the clubs, it will degenerate into just another team game and lose its appeal. *Julie will write up an email and circulate it to the board for discussion.*

Partnership forms. Susan doesn't have enough. *Vivian can make some. So can Susan.*

Regional hospitality: Rita. Can come in within budget. Reduced food options. Julie pointed out that we spent \$1500 on hospitality at the sectional. She suggested that all we need at sectionals is drinks.

JJ Award: Margaret. About 27 nominations for 8-10 different candidates. Two ineligible, one withdrew from consideration. Nominations have been sent to committee. A meeting will be held in late March, with presentation of the finalists to the board in April. Trophy and plaque will be prepared in May for presentation at regional. Julie is replacing Tom on the committee.

Labels. Jennifer has had no luck getting a label program from other units. *Vivian will set up a label program.*

Regional: Don. Meeting report with Wayne and hotel personnel. Discussed hospitality. Hotel prices have gone up astronomically. Lunch buffet is \$20 (was \$10 in 2019). Original box lunch offer was \$32/box; settled on sandwich, chips/cookie, and drink for \$16. Coupons accepted, but not in bar. Coupons will probably be worth \$3, as that is the price of a cup of coffee. No current info on number of room reservations. In February, Ken Horwedel, the DIC, expected 35-40% attendance. We pushed back

and decided to plan for 65-70%. This is important to make sure we have enough directors. Internet access in ballroom is available over wifi, but hard-wired is recommended. Regional will be cashless. Check in exact amount is okay. The hotel is okay with the unit doing the cookies for the charity game. No free coffee from hotel for charity game. Will the unit subsidize the coffee on Tuesday night? Concierge level will not be open, therefore no concierge breakfast served by hotel. Breakfast buffet available for \$20. Don will touch base with Lori Beard on cookies. There will be stands set up in the halls to buy sandwiches, etc. They hope to pre-sell buffet tickets and Monday lunch tickets. Vaccination status: if required, will have desk at front of hotel – single point of entry. Will need volunteers for that. Okay to email vaccination status ahead of time? *Julie will get current vaccination list updated and to Don.* We will use Fast Results for the daily bulletin. *Vivian has not started on first-day bulletin. She'll start on the bulletin project in April.* Kathleen wants to visit the site and understand about crate delivery and storage. (Note: This is now Eric's domain.)

IN Sectional: Arjun. Very very small tournament expected. Saturday morning: seven pairs. Saturday afternoon: six pairs. Three pairs registered for Sunday afternoon. Julie said that for the last tournament she got a lot of phone calls in the last week. Margaret suggested a phone campaign and visits to the various clubs, to give a nudge over and above the flyer. *Arjun will put together a list of people to call.*

Vivian's suggestion re the IN sectional: Go to a different location that has its own attractiveness. Margaret reported the cost of renting Wings over the Rockies. Julie said that a different location wouldn't make her want to play any more. What about calling people directly? Julie said that we can put together a list.

Information accuracy: Julie. Need to make sure that the info we send out is correct the first time. We have had several flyer issues in the recent past. Margaret volunteered to proof all flyers. Julie wants to see them all from now on, and committed to doing a more thorough review. *Margaret will review the regional info on the ACBL website and send any issues to Kathleen.*

Flyer procedure. Need to review flyer procedure. Margaret stated some concerns about the proposed file name.

Everybody's role at tournaments. Julie will add this to agenda for meeting after regional.

Website: Margaret. Need July flyer. Directory page in progress.

Board vacancy. We are all to think about this. Suggested replacements:

- Marion Brum de Barros
- Kathy McMahan

VP vacancy. VP must have been on the board for a year. Possibilities: Susan, Kathleen, Ed, Carol, Rita.

Sectional. What worked and what didn't.

Julie's comments: Attendance way down, partly due to snow. Partly due to location; whether it's perception or not, perception is reality. Paid too much for hospitality. Now we will have to pay for a hotel for the director replacing Sam. Friday events are diluted. We have a contract with Arapahoe for July and November. Chairs were very bad.

Location: Should we pay to get into the Summit? Elks Clubs or similar? Julie stated her opinion that we should try to find a stable location.

Margaret: Don't drop sectionals – players still want to play. Just find a smaller venue.

Don: No Colorado Springs players at sectional, and Arapahoe is easy for them. Why not? For a historical perspective, our hospitality offerings started only when we moved to Jeffco and had a lot of money, so the board decided to give it back to the players in the form of hospitality. Before that, it was only coffee and cookies.

Ed: Summit is not affordable in the wedding season. *Ed and Kathleen will verify and ask for deal.*

Julie: We have contracts with Arapahoe for July and November 2022. What would it cost to cancel those contracts? *Ed will review the contracts and report back.*

Search committee: *Susan and Eric.*

Site possibilities:

- Littleton Elks
- other Elks and Eagles and similar
- Happy Church

Julie's opinion on hospitality: Cut way back. People aren't consuming it. We are paying too much for staffing. Just coffee and water? DID WE MAKE A DECISION HERE????

Ed suggested dropping free plays. Kathleen said that board members do a lot of work, but she supported postponing their use. Discussion tabled.

Julie suggested dropping Friday team game and making it all pairs, to address the dilution problem. Susan moved: Eliminate Friday team game, maintain pairs games as is (two single-session games, IN separate). Motion carried. This is in effect for July. All tournament info needs to reflect this.

Board members at the tournament have a lot of things to do that affects their ability to play. To help with some of this, perhaps we should provide a suggestion box to tournaments. We have a ballot box that could be used for this. *Kathleen will see if Jerry Ranney knows the combination to the ballot box.*

People didn't show up to do their stints at the check-in tables.

There was a mix-up in releasing caddies on Sunday. Better communication needed.

Kathleen: Biggest single problem was that people didn't show up to do their jobs.

Julie: If you have a role and you can't do it, it is YOUR responsibility to find someone else. Need to recruit people – she thinks that they're willing.

Kathleen will make a list of tournament jobs. Susan added that she showed up an hour early and got put to work. She suggested that the board just show up an hour early, and then there will be people available. Kathleen supported Susan's idea.

Julie stated that the crates need to be labeled as to contents, so everybody can find whatever is needed.

Eric is now officially taking over supplies. Kathleen gave him the crate labels that she had in progress.

Cowboy Storage: Discussion with Cowboy needed. The Cowboy staff couldn't load the crates because the crates were too big and heavy for them. Other people had to be recruited. *Eric is to contact Cowboy to ensure that they have the right personnel for crate loading. Eric will also get crates labeled.* Ed asked for the sense of the board about contacting Cowboy to tell them they need to bill us. Board agreed that we should let Cowboy know. *Ed will take care of this.*

Damage to door at Arapahoe Fairgrounds: Status unknown. Jim Calhoun has provided his insurance information and acknowledged that he is responsible. We have given Arapahoe Fairgrounds the address to which they should send the refund. Arapahoe is happy with us. We are not to bring up the topic of damage to the door. We are assuming that they have worked it out with insurance.

Donation from Sam's Game: The total is about \$700. What are we going to donate it to? Vivian moved that the money go to District 17, and gets earmarked for education. Jennifer can arrange that. Susan seconded the motion. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.